

Excursions
THROUGH
THE COUNTY OF NORFOLK;

Comprising descriptions of the
RESIDENCES OF THE NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
Remains of Antiquity,
AND EVERY OTHER INTERESTING OBJECT OF CURIOSITY.

Illustrated with
One Hundred Engravings.



LONDON:
PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN;
J. Greig, Upper Street, Islington; and P. Youngman, Witham and Maldon, Essex.

Bris. 199^{nc} - 1

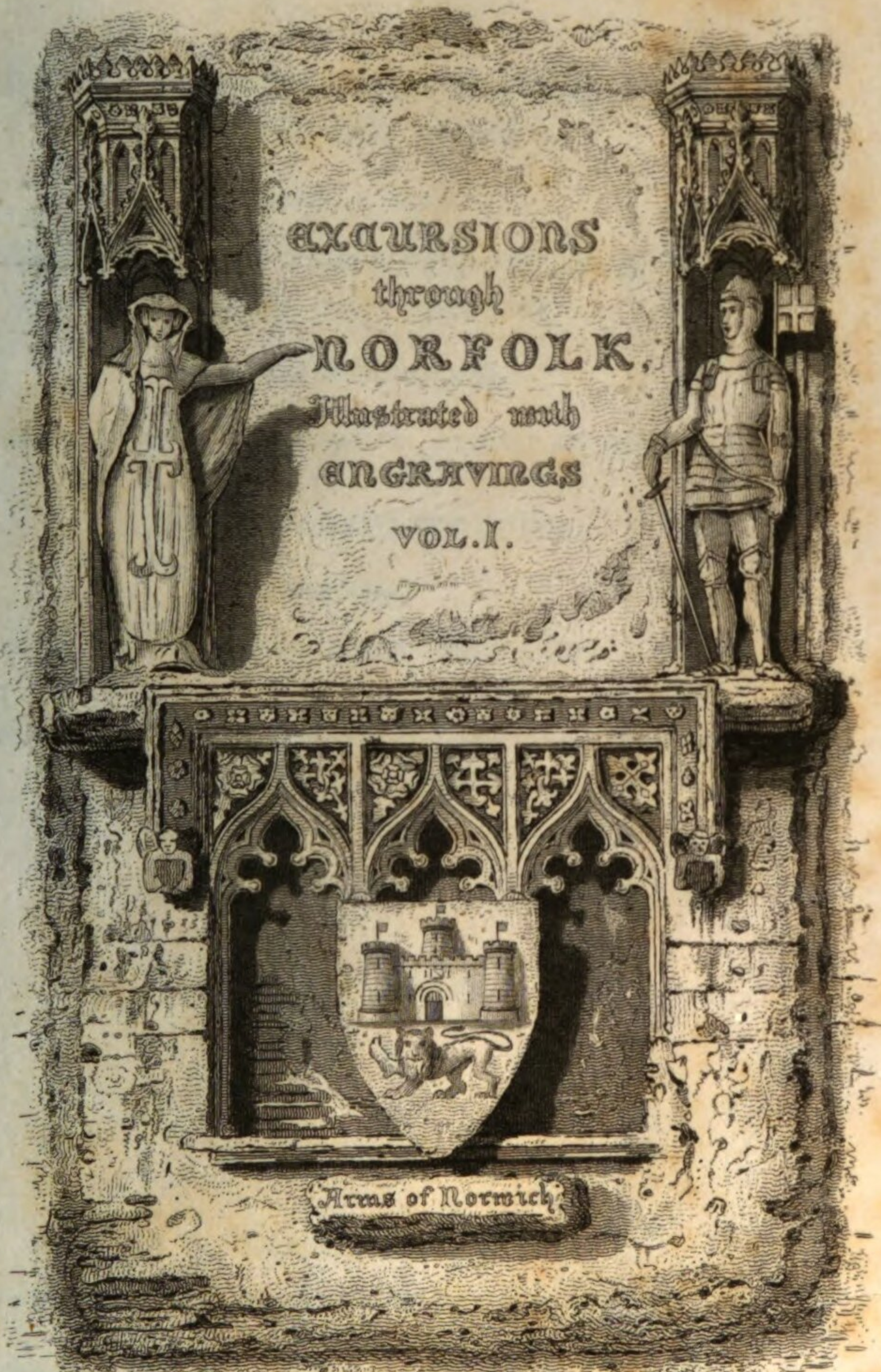
Excursions

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Drawn by J. S. Gorman.

London: Published April 11 1849. by Messrs Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Engraved by J. Barber.

EXCURSIONS
IN THE
COUNTY OF NORFOLK:

COMPRISING A BRIEF
HISTORICAL AND TOPOGRAPHICAL DELINEATION OF
EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE;

TOGETHER WITH
DESCRIPTIONS OF THE RESIDENCES OF THE
NOBILITY AND GENTRY,
Remains of Antiquity,
AND EVERY OTHER INTERESTING OBJECT OF CURIOSITY.

FORMING A COMPLETE GUIDE
FOR THE
TRAVELLER AND TOURIST.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ONE HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS, INCLUDING
A MAP OF THE COUNTY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, AND BROWN:
J. GREIG, UPPER-STREET, ISLINGTON;
AND P. YOUNGMAN, WITHAM, AND MALDON, ESSEX.

1818.

*The plate of the Mount at Thetford, published
in Number 5 of Norfolk, is to be cancelled, and
that given with Number 6 to be substituted in its
place.*

EXCURSIONS THROUGH NORFOLK.

THE extensive county of Norfolk is bounded on the north and north-east by the German Ocean, on the south and south-east by Suffolk, on the west by the Lincolnshire washes, and part of that county, and Cambridgeshire. It is almost insulated by the sea and the rivers, which form its internal boundary. Its figure is very compact, presenting an almost unbroken convexity to the ocean, and a curve, somewhat indented, to the land, thus nearly forming an oval, of which the diameter from north to south is 45 miles; that from east to west about 70; and its circumference 140 miles. The face of this county varies less than is the case in most tracts of equal extent in the kingdom: not a single hill of even moderate height is to be seen; yet the surface is in many parts broken into gentle undulations. This county, anterior to the invasion by the Romans, was inhabited by the ICENI. Subsequently to the death of the heroic Queen Boadicea, the Romans found it necessary to procure additional forces, when, to keep down the spirit of the inhabitants, always disposed to revolt, the Roman generals established a number of military posts or stations in this part of their acquired territory. Three of these bore the names of *Branodunum*, *Venta Icenorum*, and *Ad Taum*: these were the principal stations. Among the subordinate, Buxton, Castor near Yarmouth, Buckenham, Castle Acre, and Elmham, have, with various degrees of probability, been enumerated. These fortifications had a double object, that of re-

elling invasion, and that of keeping the people at home in subjection. The title of the Roman generalissimo at this time is said to have been *Comes tractus maritimi*; or, according to others, *Comes littoris Saxonici*, or Count of the Saxon shore.

It seems, from the comparatively small number of Roman troops in this country, that British conscripts were joined to them, as it is known that about the year 430 the imperial armies were comprised chiefly of British auxiliaries, who, together with the few remaining Roman legions, were recalled to defend the Roman capital, by Constantine and Maximus. Britain, thus deprived of her best soldiers, became equally vulnerable to the Picts, Scots, and other invaders. The first Saxon leader that established himself, and assumed dominion over that part of the country which at present comprises Norfolk, Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire, was Uffa: this was in the year 575. From him the inhabitants were denominated *Uffagines*, and the country, East Anglia. About this period it appears probable that the city of Norwich arose out of the *Venta Icenorum* of the Britons and Romans; and from its relative situation with respect to the old city, was called by the Saxons Northick or Northwick. Norfolk, as well as the other eastern counties, was the scene of many military transactions and ravages in the time of the Danish invasion; but, fortunately, has had little share in the disastrous events of later times. One of the most remarkable occurrences of this kind was the insurrection of the deluded peasants, headed by one Kett, in the reign of Edward VI.: this rose to such a formidable height, that an army was found necessary to oppose these insurgents, who were defeated with great slaughter in Duffin's Dale, then a part of Moushold Heath on the north of Norwich: this dale is now enclosed, and roads, &c. made over it.

Norfolk is far from being naturally one of the most

fertile spots; yet such is the industry and good husbandry of its inhabitants, that grain of various kinds, including flour and malt, have been annually exported to the amount of nearly 1,000,000*l.* sterling; and the profit on fattening beasts, and the sale of wool, have annually netted nearly 230,000*l.* That Norfolk has been one of the most populous tracts in the kingdom is probable, from the number of its parishes exceeding that of every other county in England, though in size it is only about the eighth. That Norfolk was once more populous than it now is, is further confirmed by the numerous religious establishments in many parts of the county.

The air, except in the marshy district, is salubrious, and generally healthy to persons of sufficient strength of constitution to bear the keen and dry easterly winds prevailing in the spring months. The roads are excellent; and by the sea and different rivers, navigation is carried on nearly round the county, from Yarmouth to the mouth of the Nar. The principal rivers are, the Great and Little Ouse, the Waveney, the Yare, the Wensum, and the Bure. Agriculture is in a very high state of perfection: the proportion of arable land is larger than in most counties, being computed at about two-thirds of the whole. The north and east parts are all enclosed, and have a sufficiency of timber to render them pleasant and cheerful. The lighter lands produce barley in great plenty: wheat is universally cultivated, though with most success in the stronger soils; but the Norfolk husbandman chiefly excels in the culture of the turnip, which both cleans the land, and keeps it in good heart, and precludes the necessity of a summer fallow: by this system a year's rent is saved, and an excellent root produced, on which sheep and innumerable Scotch and other beasts are fattened for London and different markets. By the patriotic exertions and laudable example of

Mr. Coke, every modern improvement in agriculture has here been fairly and experimentally laid open. This county produces cows "approaching to the Alderney," but larger; short-wooled sheep in great abundance; pigs of a prolific breed; poultry of all kinds, and of a very superior quality, especially turkeys, of which many thousands are every Christmas sent to London; rabbits in large quantities, though now decreasing, and *game* of almost every description, particularly *pheasants*. Here are also found the *Otis tarda*, or great bustard, and a variety of scarce birds, especially of the duck kind, which frequent the waters of the county in great profusion. Norfolk is also well supplied with fresh and salt-water fish of various kinds. The gross population consists of 138,089 males, 153,910 females; making a total of 291,999 persons. The manufactures of the county principally consist of woven goods. Druggets, serges, shalloons, &c. have mostly been superseded by camlets, camlettees, calimancoes, moreens, bombazines, poplins, plain and flowered damasks, shawls, and a great variety of fancy articles, mostly manufactured from wool and silk. Duffields are still much made, and silk crapes in very large quantities. The cotton manufactory of calicoes, checks, fustians, &c. had been carried to considerable extent, but since the peace this has declined. The high perfection to which machinery has been improved has almost totally supplanted spinning by hand; and the Norwich manufacturers are supplied with yarns from the mills of Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Durham.

The staple articles of Norwich are camlets for the China market, Russia, and other countries; bombazines for home and foreign trade; calimancoes for Russia, Norway and Denmark; satins, camlets, &c. for the Dutch and German trade; lustres, shawls, poppies, and various other silk and worsted goods. The making of cotton-thread lace has also been introduced

into this city, and another trade in linen, called *Suffolk hempen*. The manufactures, upon the whole, provide employment for about 50 distinct occupations, from the shearer who separates the fleece, to the mariner who ships the bale goods, and, when trade is very brisk, employ almost 100,000 persons in Norwich and its environs.

With respect to the trade of Norwich, it has been pointedly asked, "What are the national advantages of the sale of 800,000*l.* worth of coffee or sugar at Hamburgh compared with this?" How much has been owing to the enterprising spirit of its citizens may be deduced from the facts that "their travellers have penetrated through Europe; that their pattern cards were exhibited in every principal town, from the frozen plains of Moscow, to the milder climes of Lisbon, Seville, Naples, Rio Janeiro, and Buenos Ayres. The Russian peasant decorated himself with his sash of gaudy calimanco, and the Spanish hidalgo was sheltered under his light cloak of Norwich camlet. The introduction of Norwich articles into Spain soon made the manufacturer ample amends for the capricious turns of fashion in his own country. The taste of foreign nations was now consulted; the gravity of the Spaniard was suited in his plain, but finely textured camlet; the loom was taught to imitate the handiworks of Flora, and the most garish assemblage of colours of every dye satisfied the vanity of the Bohemian and Suabian female. The great fairs of Frankfort, Leipsic, and Salerno, were thronged with purchasers of these commodities. Norwich was then crowded with its looms; every winter's evening exhibited to the traveller entering its walls the appearance of a general illumination; and, from twenty miles round, the village weavers resorted to it with the produce of their industry*." We can add

* See Norfolk Tour, p. 94.

now, that though this prosperous state has not yet fully returned, fresh evidences of its recommencement appear every day.

EXCURSION I.

From Norwich to Osmondeston—Norwich, Hartford Bridge, Newton, Long Stratton, Wacton, Tivets-hall, Dickleburgh, Thelverton, Osmondeston, or Scole.

NORWICH, indisputably the principal city on the eastern side of England, is not less distinguished for its numerous antiquities than for its commercial improvements from time to time, and, on account of its trade, wealth, beauty, extent, population, the salubrity of its air, &c. has been deservedly ranked amongst the most considerable in Britain. It is principally situated upon the summit and the sides of a gentle eminence, which runs parallel with the river Wensum on its western side, and terminates at a sudden turn of this stream. At or near this spot a castle appears to have been built at a very early period. The outline of Norwich has been compared to the figure of a shoulder of mutton. In its present state it is said to cover more ground comparatively with its population than any city in the kingdom, the houses being so interspersed with gardens, that it has been called “*rus in urbe.*” It is upwards of a mile and a half in length from Conisford Gate, in King-street, on the south, to Magdalen Gate, on the north; and a mile and a quarter broad from Bishop’s Gate, on the east, to St. Benedict’s Gate, on the west: these gates are now all down. The principal streets of Norwich diverge from a common centre,

Jan. 11. 1877. Sunday. Clear. Cold.

Spent the day at home. Wrote a few letters. The weather is very cold and the wind is very strong. The snow is very deep and the ice is very thick. The trees are all bare and the ground is very hard.

Jan. 12. 1877. Monday. Clear. Cold. Went to the office in the morning. The weather is very cold and the wind is very strong. The snow is very deep and the ice is very thick. The trees are all bare and the ground is very hard. The office is very busy and the work is very much increased.

Jan. 13. 1877. Tuesday. Clear. Cold. Went to the office in the morning. The weather is very cold and the wind is very strong. The snow is very deep and the ice is very thick. The trees are all bare and the ground is very hard. The office is very busy and the work is very much increased.



Engraved by W. Wallis, from a Drawing by Thirde, for the Excursions through Norfolk. —

**BISHOP'S BRIDGE, NORWICH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub.^d Mar. 1. 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

and with the exception of the market-place, and St. Giles's-street, are mostly narrow, irregular, and badly laid out. The houses in general are ancient, but as the gardens admit a free circulation of air, the whole has a cheerful appearance. Norwich, exclusively of its cathedral, contains thirty-four churches, besides a number of chapels and meeting-houses of various descriptions for dissenters. Here are five bridges over the river; three old ones of stone, the Foundery Bridge of wood, and the Carrow Abbey Bridge of cast-iron. Excepting the side towards the river, the whole city was formerly surrounded by an embattled wall flanked with forty towers, and had twelve gates. The walls are in a state of dilapidation, and the gates are taken down. With respect to the origin of this city, Camden observes, "I have nowhere met with the name of Norwich before the Danish invasion. So far is it from having been built by Cæsar, or Guiteline the Briton, as some fabulous authors tell you." It is probable that Norwich originated in the decay of Castor, or *Venta Icenorum*, as Salisbury arose out of *Sorbiodunum*, or Old Sarum. An old distich commemorates the former event:

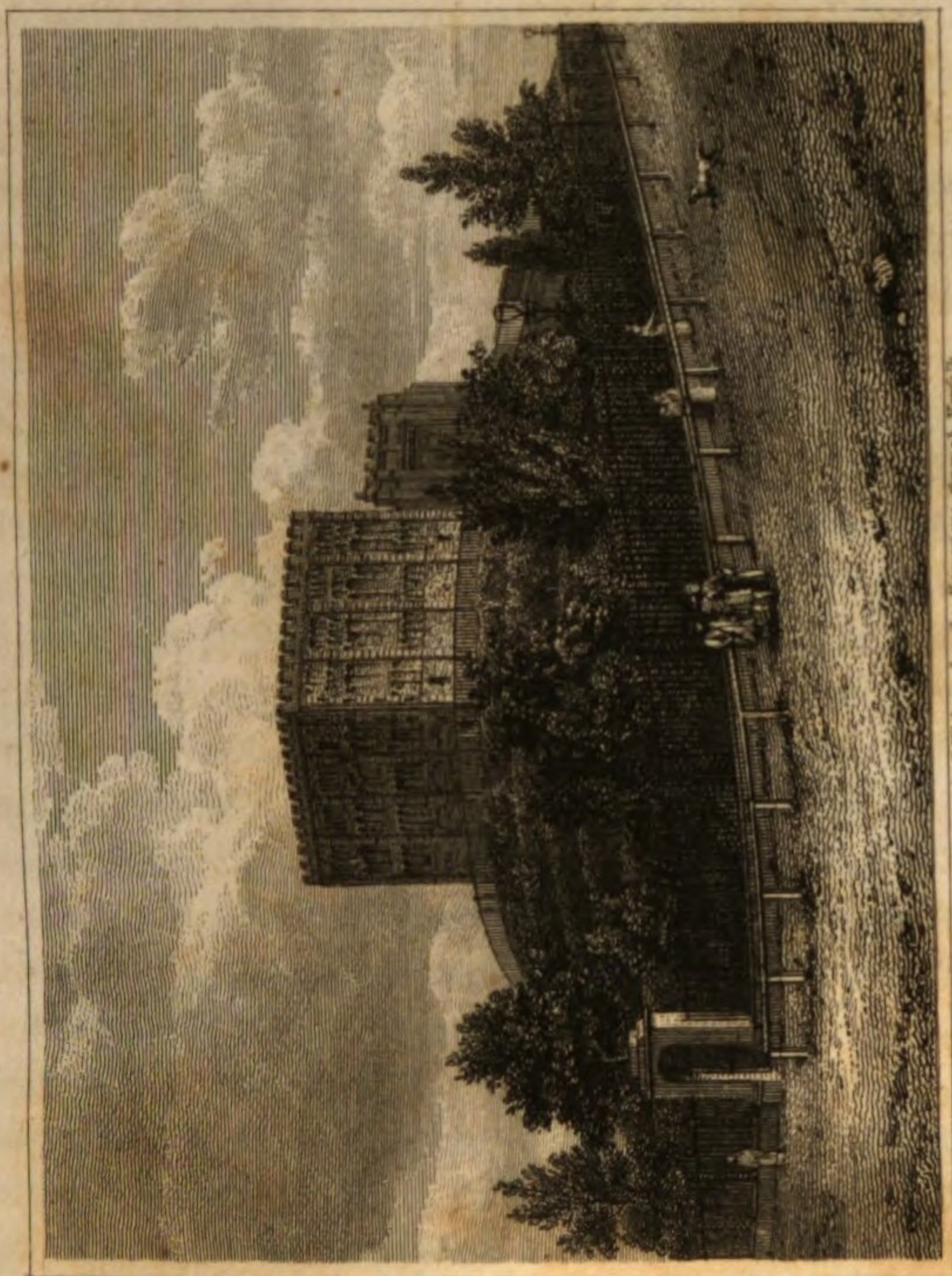
"Castor was a city when Norwich was none,

"And Norwich was built with Castor stone."

There can be little doubt that the place received its name from the Saxons. The word Northwic in their language, according to Blomefield, signifies a northern station, castle, or town. And on the Saxon coins, many of which this author enumerates, the word occurs in their exergue, with the mint-master's name. Of the origin of Norwich Castle there have been many disputes. Alfred, beyond a doubt, to repel the inroads of the Danes, greatly improved its fortifications; though when this monarch made a peace with the Danish leader, Guthrum, Norwich Castle was in the possession of that chief. In the reign of Etheldred, it was

totally destroyed by Sweyne, King of Denmark; this was in the year 1004. This monarch was afterwards defeated by the Saxon Earl Ulfkettle, and obliged to flee to Denmark. In the year 1010 the Danes returned and settled at Norwich, which they fortified; and the castle appears to have been rebuilt by *Canute* on his accession to the crown of England, about 1018, at which time it was in the custody of Turkil. Being a place of importance, its government was entrusted to Harold, who, succeeding to the throne, conferred the care of it upon Leofric, a Saxon Thane; and soon after the Norman conquest, William appointed Ralph de Waher to the Earldom of Norfolk, and gave him this castle for his residence. This nobleman joined in rebellion with Waltheof, the powerful Earl of Northumberland; but having been defeated, he took refuge in his castle of Norwich; whence, after it had been invested by the royal army, he found means to withdraw to Normandy, leaving his lady to defend it in his absence. Her garrison, chiefly consisting of Armorican Bretons, making a gallant resistance, and only yielding to famine, obtained the honourable terms of being permitted to leave the kingdom as exiles. Upon this the countess and her followers joined her husband, who had been protected from the conqueror's vengeance in the castle of Dol. On this occasion the then Archbishop of Canterbury, in addressing the king, observed, "Your realm is cleared from the infections of the Bretons, the castle of Norwich yielded with the Bretons therein, and their lands in England; their lives and limbs being granted them on condition that they quit the kingdom within forty days," &c.

The earldom and castle of Norwich thus reverting to the crown, the king, in the year 1077, conferred them on *Roger Bigod*, another of his Norman followers; and this family, with few interruptions, continued in



Drawn & Engraved by T. Higham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

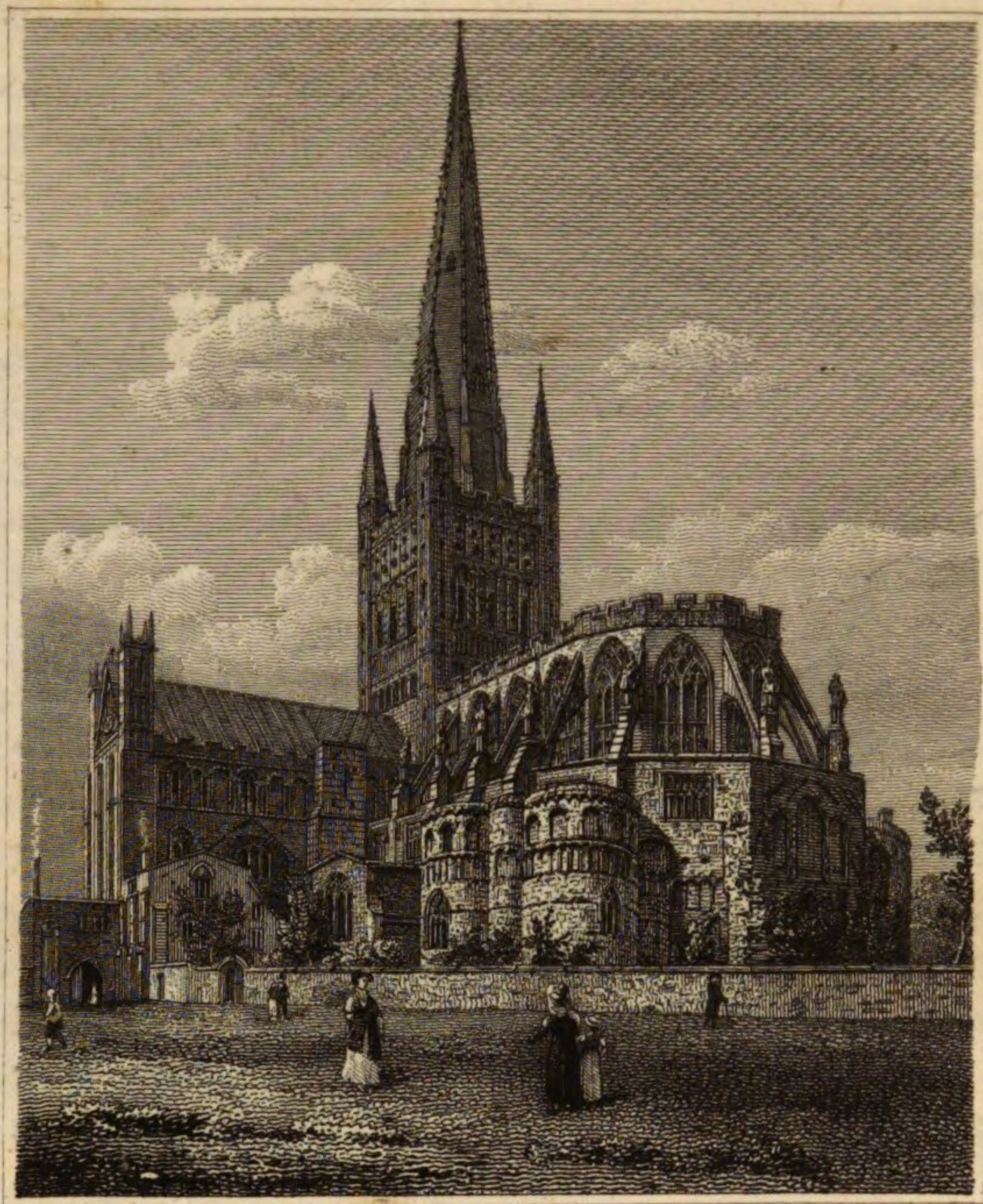
NORWICH CASTLE. NORFOLK.

Pub. Feb. 1828, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

the possession of this castle till the reign of King John. Among the different opinions as to the architecture of this building, Blomefield supposes that the present structure was erected by Roger Bigod, in the time of William Rufus, that it occupies the site of a *brick building* raised by Canute, and that it was considerably repaired and beautified by Thomas de Brotherton, in the time of Edward II. Leaving the most discordant opinions on this subject to be settled by other antiquaries, we shall observe that the keep, or master tower, is the only considerable part now standing. The promontory on which it is built appears to be a natural elevation, but is, beyond all doubt, artificial, and the ground from the castle, a mile southward, is nearly on a level with the upper *ballium*. The area of the ancient castle, including its outer works, contained about twenty-three acres, the whole of which was surrounded by a wall. This space comprehended three *ballia*, each defended by a lofty vallum and deep foss. The walls of such castles, according to Grose, were commonly flanked with towers, and had a parapet embattled, crenalated, or garretted. For the mounting of it there were flights of steps at convenient distances, and the parapet often had the merlons pierced with long chinks, ending in round holes, called oeillets. According to Mr. Wilkins, the entrance into the Barbican was at the south-east end of Golden Ball Lane, and not at the *north*, as stated by Blomefield. Over each foss, in each direction, was a bridge, but only one of them remains. This extends across the inner ditch. At the inner extremity of it are the foundations of two circular towers, fourteen feet in diameter, one of which was appropriated to the confinement of condemned criminals, till the year 1793, when the new buildings were added. This bridge is nearly one hundred and fifty feet in extent, and rises from the inner to the upper *ballium* sixteen feet. It has been much

altered at different times, and is at present faced with square flint. Near the south-west angle of the inner *ballium* is the square keep tower. Its extent from east to west, including a small tower through which was the principal entrance, is 110 feet 3 inches; and from north to south, 92 feet 10 inches; and the height to the top of the merlons of the battlements, 69 feet 6 inches. The height of the basement is about 24 feet, the outside of which is faced with rough flint, and has no external ornament except two arches on the west side. From the basement story upwards, the whole building consists of three stories, each strengthened by three projecting buttresses, between which the walls are ornamented with semicircular arches, resting upon small three-quarter columns. The backs of some of these arcades are decorated with a kind of reticulated work, formed by the stones being laid diagonally, so that the joints resemble the meshes of a net. To give it a greater richness of effect, each stone had two deeply chased lines crossing each other parallel with the joints. On the east side of the keep is a projecting tower of a richer kind of architecture, called *Bigod's* tower, evidently of the Norman style. This tower, which is now enclosed, formed an open portico or vestibule to the grand entrance into the keep. It consisted of two stories, having one window on the north side, and three on the east, which commanded an extensive view down the river.

The interior of the keep is now an unroofed area, but was formerly divided by floors covered in at the top. The basement floor appears to have been vaulted over with stone. Within this fortress there was formerly a royal chapel, exempt from all episcopal jurisdiction. It having been thought proper in 1793 to build a new gaol for the county, it was determined to erect this on the Castle Hill, adjoining the eastern side of the old edifice. The former reparations were made



Drawn & Engraved by T. Higham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

South East View of
NORWICH CATHEDRAL,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Feb. 1. 1818, by Longman & C^o Paternoster Row.

to correspond with the style and character of the old structure; but it must be admitted, that the late addition is a most heterogeneous and discordant mass.

The Castle Precinct contains six acres, one rood, and thirteen perches; and the summit of the hill is three hundred and sixty yards in circumference. The hill is enclosed with iron palisades and iron gates. By an act of parliament, passed in 1806, the castle and its limits are vested in the justices of the peace for the county, in trust, by which they are empowered to rebuild, repair, or alter any part of it as they may think proper. The trees planted on the sides of the castle hill having grown to a height that obstructed the prospect, they were cut down in 1807; and the view from the summit is now allowed to be superior in its kind to any in the county, and to most in the kingdom. The top of this hill, since it has been enclosed with iron palisades, is a very beautiful promenade.

The present cathedral of Norwich is described by Blomefield, the county historian, as a fine Gothic free-stone building, brought to that magnificence we now see it in, at several times and in different ages, by the great care and industry of its many worthy benefactors. Bishop Herbert, commonly called Herbert de Losinga, its original founder, laid its first stone in 1096, in the place where after was made the chapel of the Blessed Virgin of Pity; and there he erected an altar in honour of our Saviour; and Hubert de Rye, one of his barons, laid the second stone. Roger Bigod and most of the nobility and barons of the diocese being present, also laid their several stones, and contributed largely to that pious work; so that the original church, as left by Herbert, was the whole choir, tower, and two transepts, and the extent of it then was to the division between the nave and anti-choir, but no further: the lower part of this, now remaining, is the original building of Herbert, though some ornaments

between the arches and the entire roofs and upper parts have been since added.

The church being finished, was dedicated to the honour of the Holy Trinity, on the 24th of September, on which day the dedication feast was annually celebrated till the dissolution under Henry VIII. In the year 1272, the whole church tower, and adjacent buildings, were totally defaced by fire in an insurrection of the citizens occasioned by a violent dispute between them and the monks. The southern Upper Close gate was also burnt down in consequence of this irritation of the citizens, who were nevertheless obliged to rebuild it at their own expense. It was thoroughly repaired in 1804.

But in consequence of the additions made to this cathedral by the bishops and a number of well disposed persons, which were found necessary from frequent damages by fire and other interruptions, this spacious, elegant, and justly celebrated pile was not completed till the year 1430, under the presidency of Bishop Aylmer, exactly 346 years from the time of its commencement.

The extreme length of the church from east to west is 411 feet; and of the nave, from the western door to the transept, 140 feet; the extreme width of the latter is 191 feet; and of the nave with the aisles, 72 feet. For the sake of the arts, it is to be regretted that it was not only at the dissolution that this cathedral was despoiled of much of its curious workmanship, paintings, &c.; but that during the civil wars in the time of Charles I., that which the first depredators had spared sustained a still more ferocious kind of reform, by persons acting under a mistaken kind of zeal for the honour of God. This second spoliation left the cathedral in a state of great desolation, none of its former splendour remained, and it was but partially refitted at the restoration of Charles II.

During the time of Dean Bullock, the nave and aisles were new paved, the decayed stone work repaired, and the interior, as far as possible, restored. The cathedral was repaired and beautified in 1763, and again in 1807, upon an extensive scale, at the expense of the dean and chapter. The west front of this cathedral, though a perfectly heterogeneous mixture, produces a striking effect. It is composed of a large central compartment of the same size as the nave, and two lateral divisions of an agreeable proportion with the side aisles. The large central window in this front is of the perpendicular English style, and divided into three leading compartments in height, and the same number in width, which are again subdivided. The grand entrance doorway, beneath, is formed by a bold deep pointed arch, with its spandrils and side fascia highly enriched with mouldings, niches, pedestals, statues, and other sculptured decorations. Each of the lateral elevations is divided into three compartments, all of the semi-circular or Norman style. At the bottom a doorway opens to the aisle, and above this is a series of four windows, separated by small columns, over which are three blank arches. A small staircase turret at each end is surmounted by a modern dome; and the terminations of the larger turrets in the central division have been censured as a kind of nondescript architecture. The nave and aisle of this edifice present five tiers or stories of windows and arcades; though part of the lowermost is obscured by one side of the cloisters. Above this is a series of blank arches, or arcades of the semi-circular style, divided into fourteen compartments, by a flat buttress between each, and every division consists of six arches. In the next tier upwards, each compartment shews three semi-circular arches, the centre one being open and glazed, and the two others blank. Over this is a flatly pointed arched window, with two mullions in each division.

The transept is unusually lofty and narrow. Above this is a series of arches to the upper part of the nave, displaying in each compartment a pointed arched window in the middle, with a semi-circular moulding over it, and two lateral blank arches. The sides and front of this transept nearly correspond in number and style of arches with the other divisions. A lofty tower, surmounted by a spire, the whole height of which is 315 feet, rises with the intersection of the transept from the nave and choir. The tower is divided into four stories or gradations, besides that of the battlements, and each is ornamented with arcades, columns, and tracery mouldings, of variegated and curious workmanship. The battlements and pinnacles at the angles are of a later style than the rest, as is also the octangular spire, which has bold crotchets attached to and running up the ribs at each angle. The architecture of the exterior of the choir displays several windows with square heads, divided by three mullions and tracery, among which are curious and rare examples of form. Bold buttresses project across the aisles from the upper part of the choir.

The circular arch, and large short column, which are the leading features of the architecture of this church, have been received as the most certain indications of the Norman style. These are ingeniously varied in size, mouldings, and ornaments in different parts of the edifice, which consists of a nave with side aisles, a transept, a choir with a semi-circular east end, and an aisle surrounding it. On the north-east side of the latter is a place called the confessional, from which a small aperture communicates with the great altar. Near the east end of this aisle is a small chapel dedicated to Jesus, and on the opposite side at the south-east angle of the church, another called St. Luke's chapel. West of this, the square building projecting from the aisle is now used as the

Consistory Court. Heydon's chapel and the old chapter-house are between this and the transept; and abutting to that of the south are the precinct's gaol or dungeon, and St. Edmund's, or the prior's, chapel. West of these, but joined to the south side of the nave, are the cloisters, which form a square of 174 feet within the walls. Branching off from the southern transept, these cloisters enclose a square court or area, on the western side of which are eleven windows, or arched openings, twelve on the eastern side, and eleven on the northern and southern sides. All these windows are divided into three lights, and are all decorated with tracery. At the south-west angle is a large lavatory. The roof is supported by groins springing from clustered columns, ornamented with bold and variously sculptured bosses at their points of intersection. A very curious doorway in the pointed arch style leads from the eastern aisle of the cloisters to the nave. It has four columns on each side with corresponding archivault mouldings, and in the front of this, seven canopied niches, with richly sculptured crochets, each including a statue. The confessionary, Blomefield observes, was formerly very dark: it was here the people stood when they confessed to the priest, who placed himself within the altar rails, between the eighteenth and nineteenth north pillars, the voice coming through a hole in the wall made for that purpose, which still remains. This place is now called Queen Elizabeth's seat, because when she visited this cathedral she had a seat erected for her between these pillars.

Of the shaft or spire of this cathedral, the same author has remarked, that it is the highest in England, except that of Salisbury; being more lofty than those noted ones of Lichfield, Chichester, or Grantham.

At the restoration, when it was repaired and a new gilded weather-cock placed on it, there were stages made at the upper windows, and many persons went

up to the top of the pinnacle, whence is a prospect all round the country.

What at present is the organ loft in this cathedral was, till the reformation, called the *reredos*, or *holy rood loft*. Here stood the principal *rood* or *cross*, with the effigies of the Saviour in full proportion, and the *imago principalis*, or image of the Holy Trinity. The rood, or image of Christ upon the cross, was generally made of wood, and in most churches placed in a loft made for that purpose, immediately over the passage out of the nave into the chancel: the nave representing, as they said, the church militant, and the chancel, the church triumphant. Those therefore that would pass out of the former into the latter must go under the *rood loft*, or under the cross, and suffer affliction. But it is to be observed that no rood was complete without the images of the Virgin Mary and St. John, one standing on each side of the cross. These *holy roods* were very highly venerated.

The interior of this cathedral, it has been observed, is grand and solemn in its general effect: the nave is the finest and most complete specimen of Norman architecture in the kingdom: the choir is also a noble specimen of the same style, and considerably like the church at Romsey: the modern fitting up however of the choir, the pewing in the aisles and the encumbered state of the transepts, miserably disfigure the building, and injure the harmony and character of the whole. It has been objected that the present choir, the part appropriated for divine service, has been extended from the semi-circular end across the transept, and to the third column in the nave, which space is nearly enclosed with boarded and painted partitions, filling up the arches, and preventing any thing like a grand and comprehensive view of the whole.

The church is far from rich in monuments, yet to describe all the tombs and inscriptions would require a

volume of itself. For these, Weever, Sir Thomas Browne, Blomefield, and others, may be consulted. The tomb of Bishop Herbert, and many more, were destroyed during the civil wars; but a new altar monument was erected to his memory by the dean and chapter in the year 1682. It is in the central part of the choir, enclosed within an iron palisade. This part also contains the graves of most of the prelates who have filled the see. There are mural stones to the memory of Bishops Scambles and Overall; and between the ninth and tenth pillars, reckoning from the west, a chapel, now thrown open, contains an altar tomb deprived of its brasses, belonging to Sir James Hobart, attorney general to King Henry VII. In Jesus chapel is another tomb to the memory of Sir Thomas Wyndham, who died at his seat at Felbrigg, October 22, 1521. This church was also the place of sepulture of John Heydon, esq. a great favourite of Edward IV. of Sir Henry Heydon, knt. Sir William Boleyn, knt. great-grandfather of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Roger Bigod, knt. sewer to Henry I. &c. &c. In the chapel called *Our Lady the Less* is an arched mural monument to Sir William Beauchamp, the founder, who lived in the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II.

In the church of the Holy Trinity is the tomb of Bishop Goldwell, on which he lies in stone in his mitre and pontifical habiliments, with a lion at his feet, and a priest on his knees, praying, with a book before him; but the inscription is lost, and the tomb defaced.

The cloisters on the south side of the church have the largest quadrangle of the kind in England. The stone roof is adorned with several scripture pieces and many legends; those of St. Christopher and St. Laurence are particularly mentioned by Blomefield. At the grand south entrance of the church are what are called the espousals, or sacrament of marriage, carved in stone. It was formerly the custom for the

couple to be married to stand at the church door, where the priest used to join their hands and perform the greatest part of the matrimonial office. Here the husband endowed his wife with the portion or dowry, which was called *dos ad ostium ecclesiæ*. This custom is alluded to by Chaucer in his Wife of Bath.

“She was a worthy woman all her live,
Husbands at the church dore had she five.”

At the lavatories near this door the monks used to wash their hands before they went into the common eating-hall; the towels hanging on the left hand of the door.

The deanery was formerly the prior's lodge; and with the long enclosed gallery, where the sick monks used to walk, still remains entire.

Carved in stone, over one of these doors, is a fox in a pulpit in the habit of a secular priest holding up a goose to his auditory. This, with many other carvings on the stalls in the choir, and on the stone work in other places, was designed as a reflection on the secular clergy or parish priests, who were much hated by the monastic, or regular clergy, as they called themselves. The origin of this rooted antipathy was the continual encroachment of the regulars upon the seculars, in getting the parochial churches appropriated to themselves, and thus rendering the seculars wholly subservient, and obliged to take what they chose to allow them for the service of cures; or otherwise obtaining dispensations to serve them themselves. This covetousness, so manifest to all the world, caused the people in general to join with the parish priests; and hence it is, as men always hate those they have injured, that we see so many odd figures, with the heads of secular priests, carved on monasteries and churches appropriated to the monks, or regular clergy, representing lions, wolves, foxes, and other emblems of

craft and rapine fixed with leaden spouts to their mouths. On the other hand, nothing is so frequent on the parochial churches, where the secular interest prevailed, as the representation of monks in their cowls pouring water out of their mouths; every shower indicating their excess in gluttony and drinking, their vanity, idleness, folly, and other vices: by way of embellishment also about many churches, the representations of asses, monkeys, owls, magpies, tortoises, swine, &c. dressed in cowls or other monkish habits, were introduced by the secular clergy in the spirit of recrimination.

With respect to the epitaphs and inscriptions in and about this cathedral, some writers have produced various instances of punning and other puerilities, but have overlooked some superior attempts at wit and character. Blomefield has recorded an epitaph composed for one Jacob Freeman at Norwich, who was buried in the cloister-yard. He was a zealous royalist during the time of the civil wars, and so robust that he used to lie on a hill and sleep, with his head on a stone. This poor old man was very hardly used by Oliver's committee, at that time, for lying in the cathedral and church porches, where he usually repeated the common prayer to the people, in spite of all their ill treatment, though often sent to Bridewell, whipped and imprisoned for it.

Here in this homely cabinet
Resteth a poor old Anchoret;
Upon the ground he laid all weathers,
Not as most men, *goose like*, on feathers,
For so indeed it came to pass,
The Lord of Lords his landlord was;
He līv'd, instead of wainscot rooms,
Like the possess'd, among the tombs,
As by some spirit thither led
To be acquainted with the dead;

Each morning from his bed so hallow'd
 He rose, took up his cross, and follow'd.
 To every porch he did repair
 To vent himself in *common prayer*,
 Wherein he was alone devout
 When *preaching* jostled *praying* out.
 In such procession through the city,
 Maugre the devil and committee,
 He daily went, for which he fell,
 Not into Jacob's, but *Bride-well*.
 Where you might see his loyal back
 Red letter'd like an *Almanack*;
 Or I may rather else aver
 Dominickt like a *calendar*,
 And him triumphing at that harm,
 Having nought else to keep him warm.
 With Paul he always pray'd; no wonder,
 The lash did keep his flesh still under:
 Yet whipcord seemed to lose its sting
 When for the *church* or for the *king*;
 And tho' such suffering he did pass
 In spite of bonds, still Freeman was;
 'Tis well his pate was weather proof,
 The *palace* like, it had no roof;
 The hair was off, and 'twas the fashion,
 The *crown* being under sequestration!
 Tho' bald as Time and mendicant,
 No friar yet, but protestant.
 His head each morning and each even
 Was water'd with the dew of heaven;
 He lodg'd alike dead and alive,
 As one that did the grave survive;
 For he is now, though he be dead,
 But in a manner put to bed.
 Pity he in no porch did lay,
 That did in porches so much pray;
 Yet let him have this epitaph,
 Here sleeps Old JACOB *Stone* and *Staff*.

The bishop's palace, situated on the north side of
 the precinct, was erected by Bishop Salmon in the
 year 1318, upon the site of a former building: it was
 afterwards repaired by Bishop Totington, and was suc-

cessively ornamented by Bishops Hart, Goldwell, and Parkhurst, whose arms were emblazoned on the different windows. In the civil wars it suffered largely from the rage of the fanatics. It was under their regimen let out in tenements, and the great hall converted into a meeting-house. In 1656, this room, 110 feet in length, and 60 wide, was demolished, and the lead and other materials sold. At the restoration, Bishop Reynolds was at great expense in rendering this palace habitable; and by the improvements made by him and other bishops it has in a manner risen from its ruins. Formerly there was a covered way, from the door of the north transept of the cathedral, to the entrance of the grand hall of the bishop's palace, vaulted with stone like the cloisters.

The chapel appropriated to the use of the bishop was that of Jesus, in the cathedral; but Bishop Salmon erected another nearer the palace, which was 130 feet long, by 30 broad. Here the founder and several other prelates were interred. In 1619, this chapel was licensed for the use of the Walloon residents in Norwich; but in the civil wars its fine painted windows, which had been spared by the foreign dissenters, were rudely mutilated by those of our own country.

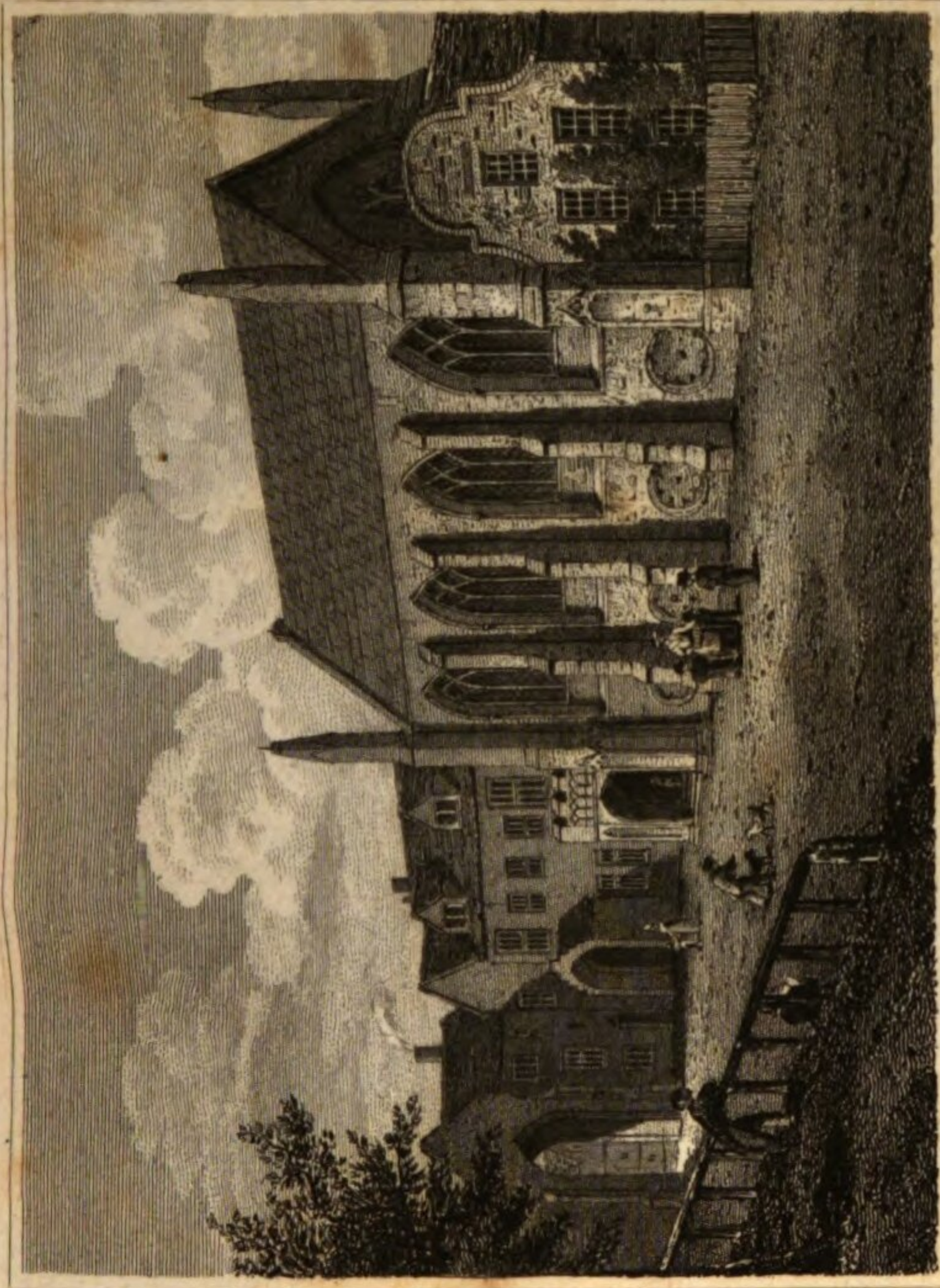
The priory, built by Bishop Herbert, about the year 1101, for monks of the Benedictine order to officiate in the cathedral, stood on the south side of it, in what is now called the Lower Close. On pulling down the workhouse, near this spot, in 1804, some remains of the refectory and dormitory of this house were discovered, including the shafts of three massy clustered pillars, each nine feet long: they appeared to have been painted green, and the sculptured capitals to have been gilt. The beautiful roof was nearly perfect; but the whole having been so long covered in, few of the internal decorations could be traced with accuracy.

Prior to the time of Bishop Herbert, it seems that a church had stood on the site of one erected by that prelate, in that part of the precinct called the Cow-holm, from its situation, denominated *St. Mary in the Marsh*. A small fragment of this was lately visible.

The Charnel-House, now occupied as the Free-school, was founded by Bishop Salmon about the year 1316. It consisted of a chapel with a vault under it, and proper apartments for the residence of officiating priests; the vault alone being used for the real purpose of a charnel-house. Thither the sacrist of the cathedral was permitted to bring all bones in a proper state of removal "to be reserved till the last day." The present portico was built by Bishop Lyhart; but the under charnel-house, an arched vault supported by two rows of columns 14 feet high, has long been used for cellars; and the priests' offices converted into a dwelling-house for the master of the free-school.

St. Ethelbert's parish church being burnt down in the grand civic insurrection in the year 1272, the citizens of Norwich were compelled to build the present gate with the chapel over it, dedicated to St. Ethelbert. It consists of a pointed arched gateway, having a beautiful billeted moulding resting on circular columns, and on each side a crocketed pointed niche. Over these is a handsome fascia, decorated with five niches, that were formerly occupied by statues and surmounted by crocketed pediments. The central figure alone remains. Formerly there were four other gates leading to this precinct: one of those, demolished, led into Vedast-lane; another leads to St. Giles's Hospital; a third opens into St. Martin's Plain, and a fourth faces the western end of the cathedral. This is still called *Erpingham's Gate*, being built by Sir Thomas Erpingham, knt. as an act of penance for his known adherence to the doctrines of Wickliffe.

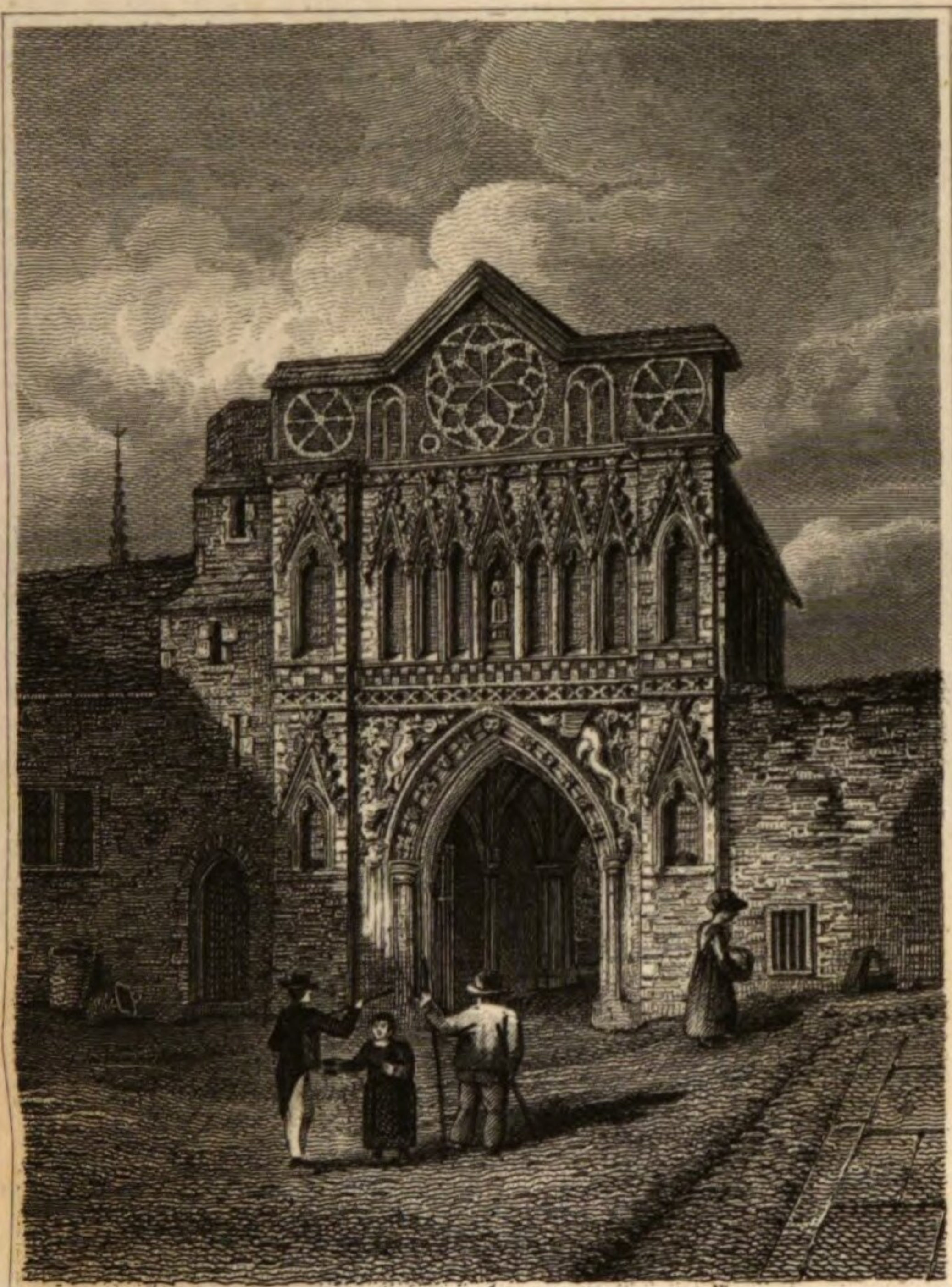
Erpingham's Gate exhibits a lofty pointed arch, en-



Engraved by J. Barber from a Sketch by T. Haydon for the Excursion through Norfolk.

THE FREE SCHOOL, NORWICH. NORFOLK.

Pub. May 22. 1829 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by W. Deeble from a Sketch by J. Higham for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**S^T. ETHELBERT'S GATE, NORWICH.
NORFOLK.**

Pub^d June 1. 1848. by Longman & C^o Paternoster Row.



Engraved by I. C. Varral, from a Sketch by T. Higham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**THE ERPINGHAM GATE, NORWICH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub^d June 1, 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

riched with columns, mouldings, and numerous small statues in canopied niches. The spandrils are highly decorated with tracery mouldings, shields, &c.; and the whole is inclosed in a kind of square frame, with semi-octagonal buttresses, each of which is divided into four compartments, covered with statues, niches, shields, pedestals, &c. and on numerous scrolls is the word *yenk*, supposed to be the motto of the builder. Over the centre arch is a pediment, with a statue of Sir Thomas Erpingham in armour, represented kneeling, and in a praying posture. On the north corner is the effigy of a secular priest with his scholar, said to be emblematic of the industry of the seculars; and on the opposite side that of a monk in an idle posture, expressing an implied censure on those priests, who, being maintained in religious houses, assumed to themselves, as before stated, the name of *regulars*.

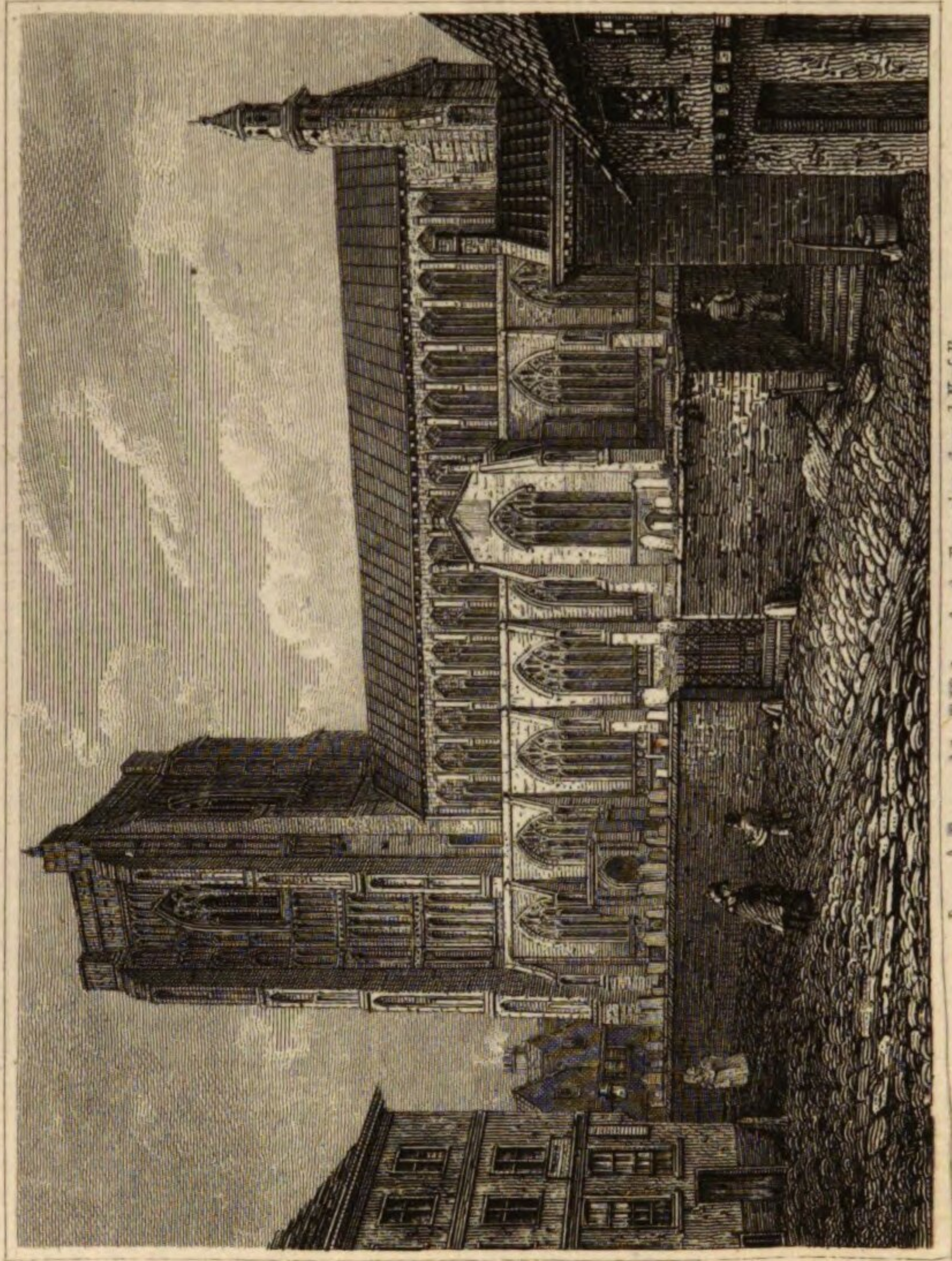
The site of the White Friars, another celebrated foundation in Norwich, was built upon, and their hall converted into a Baptist meeting-house: but this has lately been pulled down and rebuilt: the remainder of their cloister forms a cellar to a public-house.

In the College of St. Mary in the Fields the windows of the great hall are still decorated with the arms of several noble families, the Cornwallises, the Southwells, the Hobarts, &c.

The site of the Priory of St. Leonard's, built by Bishop Herbert de Losinga, containing 14 acres, is walled in, and part of the ruined gate-house still remains.

The ruins of the Monastery of Black or Preaching Friars are very extensive; the cloister, including their burial-place, is on the north side of the church. In 1625 the kitchen belonging to this place was converted into a House of Industry for the poor. Their church, a noble and beautiful pile, is still complete, the steeple excepted, which fell down in the year 1712. This

building, about 120 feet long, and 70 wide within the walls, has 14 windows on a side in the upper tier, and six in the lower; two at the east end, and three at the west. These were formerly ornamented with painted glass, which has been mostly demolished or taken away. At the dissolution, the city of Norwich, through the interest of the Duke of Norfolk, obtained a grant of it from Henry VIII. "to make of the church a fair and large hall for the mayor and his brethren, with all the citizens, to repair unto at a common assembly," &c. At this period the choir had been converted into a chapel for the corporation, and for the several guilds to hear mass performed morning and evening, and to make their respective offerings. This guild company was created in 1385, and consisted of a society of brethren and sisters, formed in honour of St. George the Martyr, for the purposes of charity and posthumous prayer. After the reformation, the spirit of the times having taken a different turn, this society assumed more of a municipal than a religious form, and in 1731 they resigned their charters to the corporation; their plate and paraphernalia were sold, their debts paid, and their meetings entirely ceased. In fact, since its change from a church, it has borne the names of St. Andrew's Hall and the New Hall. At several periods between 1650 and 1726 the mayor and corporation have proclaimed this hall the public exchange for the despatch of business between merchants and tradesmen. About 1774 the old gateway and the wall next to Bridge-street were taken down, the present porch erected, and the room over it fitted up as the city library, in which the Court of Requests for the recovery of small debts was afterwards held. In October, 1786, this hall was opened for a corn-exchange, and used for this purpose every Saturday. In 1806 it was fresh painted, and the pictures cleaned and varnished. The portraits in this hall are mostly wretched, but also



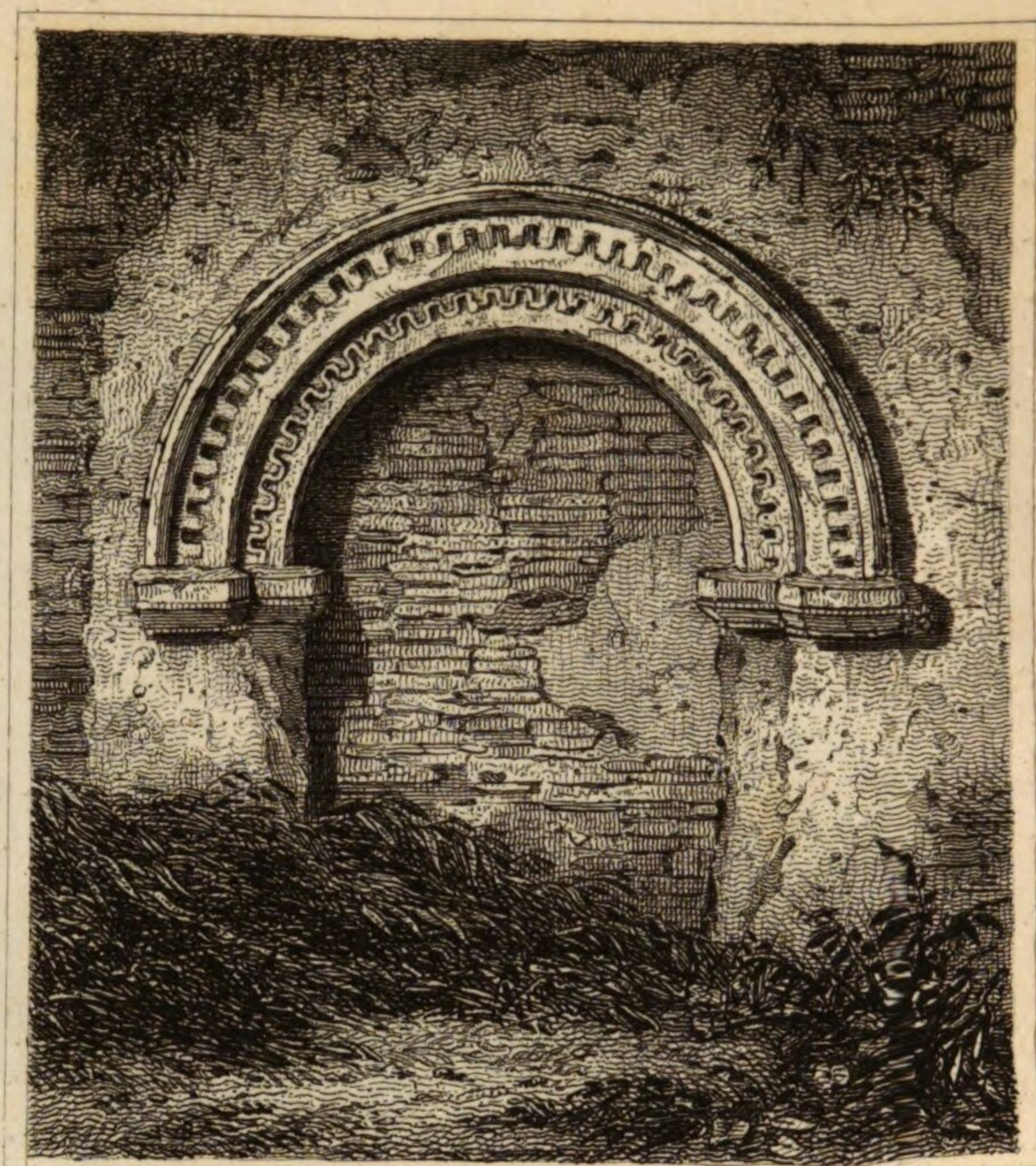
Drawn & Engraved by T. Hylham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

The Church of

ST PETER MANCROFT, NORWICH,

NORFOLK.

Pub. 2^d Mar. 1. 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Craig, from a Drawing by J.S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk -

An Ancient Entrance on the S. Side of
ST JULIAN'S CHURCH, NORWICH,
NORFOLK.

Pub.^d Feb. 1. 1818 by Longman & C^o Paternoster Row.

include some fine specimens of modern art, especially in a likeness of the late Lord Suffield by Gainsborough, and one of the late Mr. Windham by Hoppner. In the centre, over the entrance of what was called the Dutch church, is a portrait of Lord Nelson, with this inscription, "This best likeness of the illustrious hero, and the last for which he ever sat, was painted after his return from the battle of the Nile, in the year 1801, by Sir William Beechey, and confers additional lustre on the professional abilities of that eminent artist." At the opposite end of the hall, over the large central window, is displayed, in a festoon form, the tri-coloured flag of France, being the ensign of the French ship *Le Genereux* of 74 guns, captured in the Mediterranean by Sir Edward Berry in 1801.

The church of St. Peter Mancroft is a large regular building, and, next to the cathedral, is the largest church in the city; it is situated on an elevated spot at the west corner of the market-place, and was completed and consecrated in 1455. The square tower at the west end is 100 feet in height, and the body, composed of a nave, choir and chancel, measures 212 feet in length, and 70 in width. There are entrance porches on the south and north sides. The painting over the altar represents St. Peter's deliverance from prison: this was executed by Catton, and given to the church by Alderman Starling, in 1768. Here is also a monument to the memory of the celebrated Sir Thomas Browne, who died October 19, 1682, aged 77 years.

St. Julian's Church, founded before the conquest, exhibits some specimens of Saxon architecture.

St. Lawrence's Church stands on the spot originally the quay for landing fish brought to Norwich, and was erected in 1472, at the expense of the monastery of St. Edmund's Bury, assisted by private benefactions. The tower is square, 112 feet in height. Over one of the doors is a carved representation of the martyrdom of

St. Lawrence in stone: the saint is seen broiling upon a gridiron, and the soldiers are attending the fire. On one part is figured a king crowned, designed to represent God the Father, with a sword in his hand, striking at the Emperor Decian, the author of this cruel proceeding: on the other side the carving represents Edmund, the king, tied to a tree, and the Danes shooting arrows at his body: near them lies his head among some bushes, alluding to the legend, which says, they could not kill him with arrows. Hinguar, therefore, the Danish general, ordered this to be stricken off, and to be thrown into an adjacent wood, where a wolf preserved it from being devoured till it was discovered by the Christians, and buried with the body. Previously to the civil wars this church was highly decorated with various altars, tabernacles, &c. and the windows ornamented with painted glass. In 1643 the rails of the communion were broken down, the floor of the chancel taken up, and the stained glass defaced. The following is one of the items entered into the parish register on that occasion: "Laid out to Goodman Perfett for putting out the superstitious inscriptions on the church windows, and the pulling down of crucifixes, 1s. 8d."

Among the charitable foundations, besides the Free Grammar School, here is what is called *The Boys Hospital*, incorporated subsequently to the mayoralty of Thomas Anguish, between the years 1617 and 1628. Upon this establishment 14 boys were to be fed, clothed, and educated; but by the increase of the revenues this number has been nearly trebled.

The Girls Hospital, situated in Golden Dog Lane, was first endowed by Robert Baron, mayor, in 1649; and, like the other, has been considerably increased. The girls are decently clothed in blue, and taught to read, spin, sew, &c. This is not now inhabited; an allowance is made to out-door pensioners.

St. Giles's, commonly called the Old Men's Hospital,

was founded by Bishop Suffield, in the year 1249. It stands on the north-east side of the cathedral, and at present consists of the hospital church, which has a square tower at the south-west corner. The choir has been converted into lodgings for the women, and the nave and the aisles for the accommodation of the men: the remaining part is still used as a place of divine worship. By this charity, formerly called *God's House*, provision is made for 100 persons of both sexes.

Passing by several charitable institutions of an inferior degree, the mind dwells with great complacency upon the *Infirmery*, or hospital for the reception of the sick, and *Bedlam*, the asylum for lunatics.

The Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, a large brick building, stands without St. Stephen's gate, and was erected in 1772 by voluntary contribution. A new wing, added in 1802, completed the original plan.

The Guildhall of this city was not finished till the year 1453, when the windows of the council-chamber were glazed: these contained various historic and emblematic paintings alluding to the administration of justice, but even these have been mutilated in such a manner that only two small ones at the east end remain perfect. In 1806 the common-council-chamber underwent a complete repair: here the assizes and quarter sessions for the city are held.

The Tower in the Hospital Meadow, otherwise the Dungeon, or Cow Tower, is a circular building, about 52 feet high, and 24 in diameter, having a spiral staircase ascending to the top. It is situated on the western bank of the Wensum, where the stream forms a considerable angle: Blomefield supposes it was built "in order to levy the tolls then belonging to the prior and church, and that it was also used as a prison belonging to the jurisdiction of the cathedral." By others, this tower is thought to have been an advanced post, and a kind of watch-tower to the castle. The present

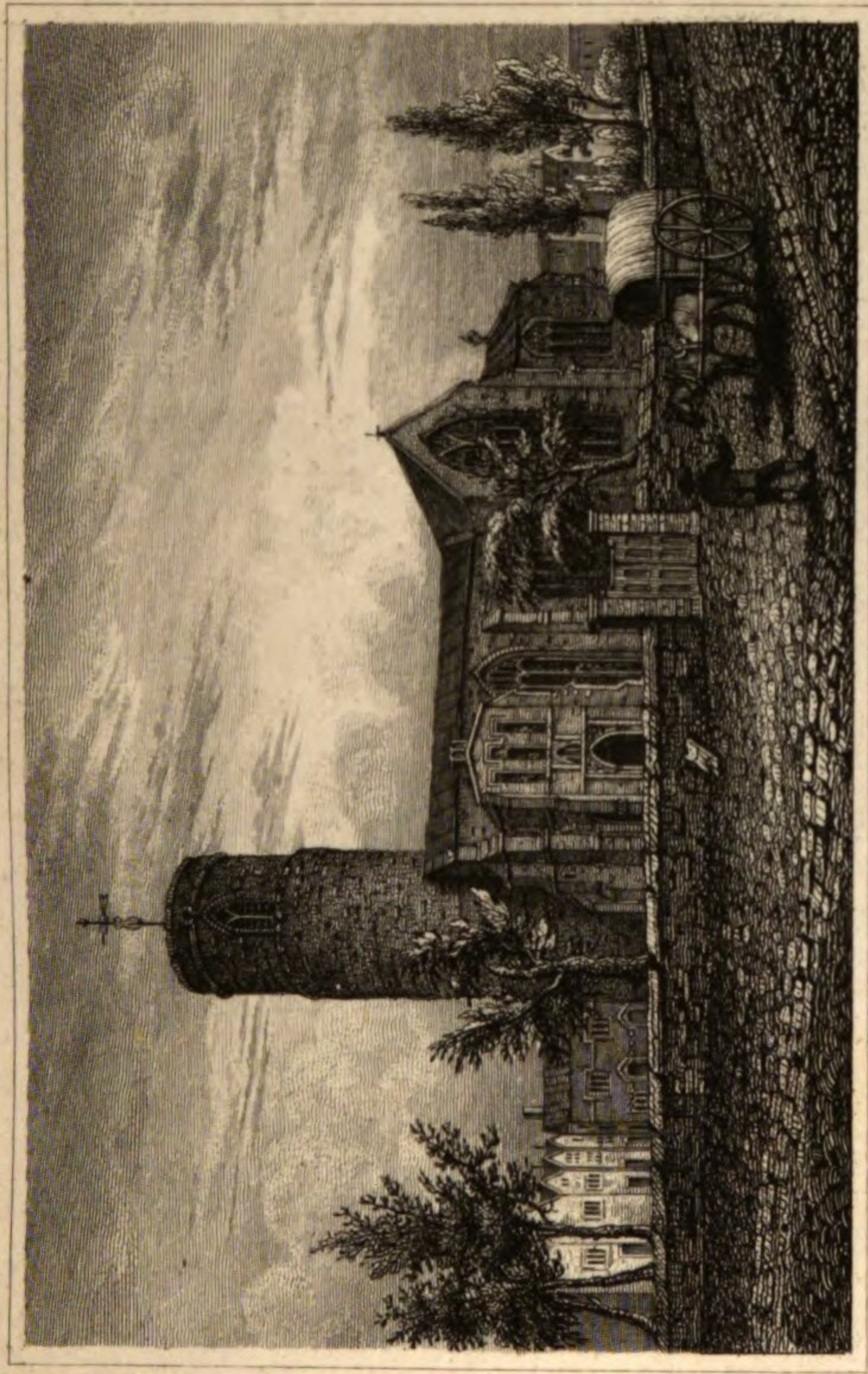
building is supposed to have been erected at the expense of the city in the year 1390.

Surrey House, in Surrey-street, is a curious specimen of old English architecture: many armorial bearings were emblazoned on the glass in the windows of this house.

Fastolf's Palace was an old house opposite the Cow Tower, said to have been built by the celebrated Sir John Fastolf of Castor, being called, in ancient records, his *place* or city-house. It has been taken down, and another house built on its site.

The Dukes of Norfolk formerly had a magnificent palace here. It was made a ducal residence in the time of Henry VIII., but taken down in 1602, when a more stately building was erected on its site by Henry, Duke of Norfolk. His grandson, having taken umbrage at the mayor's refusing his company of comedians leave to enter the city with trumpets, neglected this residence; after which a part of the site was used as a common stathe or quay, and the remaining buildings let out for the city workhouse. This residence of the dukes was one of the largest known at that time out of London: it had a theatre, a tennis-court, and a covered bowling-alley; the latter having been noticed as one of the first of the kind in England, though they were common in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Among the numerous churches in this city which have nothing very striking in their architecture, are those of St. Stephen the Protomartyr, St. John the Baptist and the Holy Sepulchre, St. Michael's at Thorn, All Saints, St. John's Timberhill, St. Mary's the Less, St. Peter's per Mountergate, St. Peter's Southgate, St. Ethelred's, St. Michael's at Plea, St. Andrew's, St. Peter's Hungate, St. Simon and St. Jude, St. George's in Tombland, St. Martin's in the Plain, St. Edmund's, St. James's, St. Paul's, St. Saviour's, St



Engraved by W. Wallis, from a Sketch by T. Higham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NORWICH,
NORFOLK.**

Publ. & Sold by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Greig, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the *Excursions through Norfolk*.

Interior Door of
ST. SIMONS CHURCH,
NORWICH.

Pub. March 11. 1819, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Clement's, St. George's, St. Augustine's, St. Martin's, St. Mary's, St. Michael's, St. Giles's, St. Bennet's, St. Swithin's, St. Margaret's, St. Gregory's, St. John the Baptist's Madder-market, and the Dutch church, since 1807 appropriated solely to the use of the poor in the workhouse. The Unitarian chapel, in St. George's of Colgate, is an elegant octangular structure, and was built by Mr. Thomas Ivory, in 1756.

Many churchyards in Norwich lie considerably higher than the adjacent street, which was probably rather occasioned by the churches being built upon elevated situations, and the passages from them cut down to a level with the streets, than by the numerous interments in the churchyards.

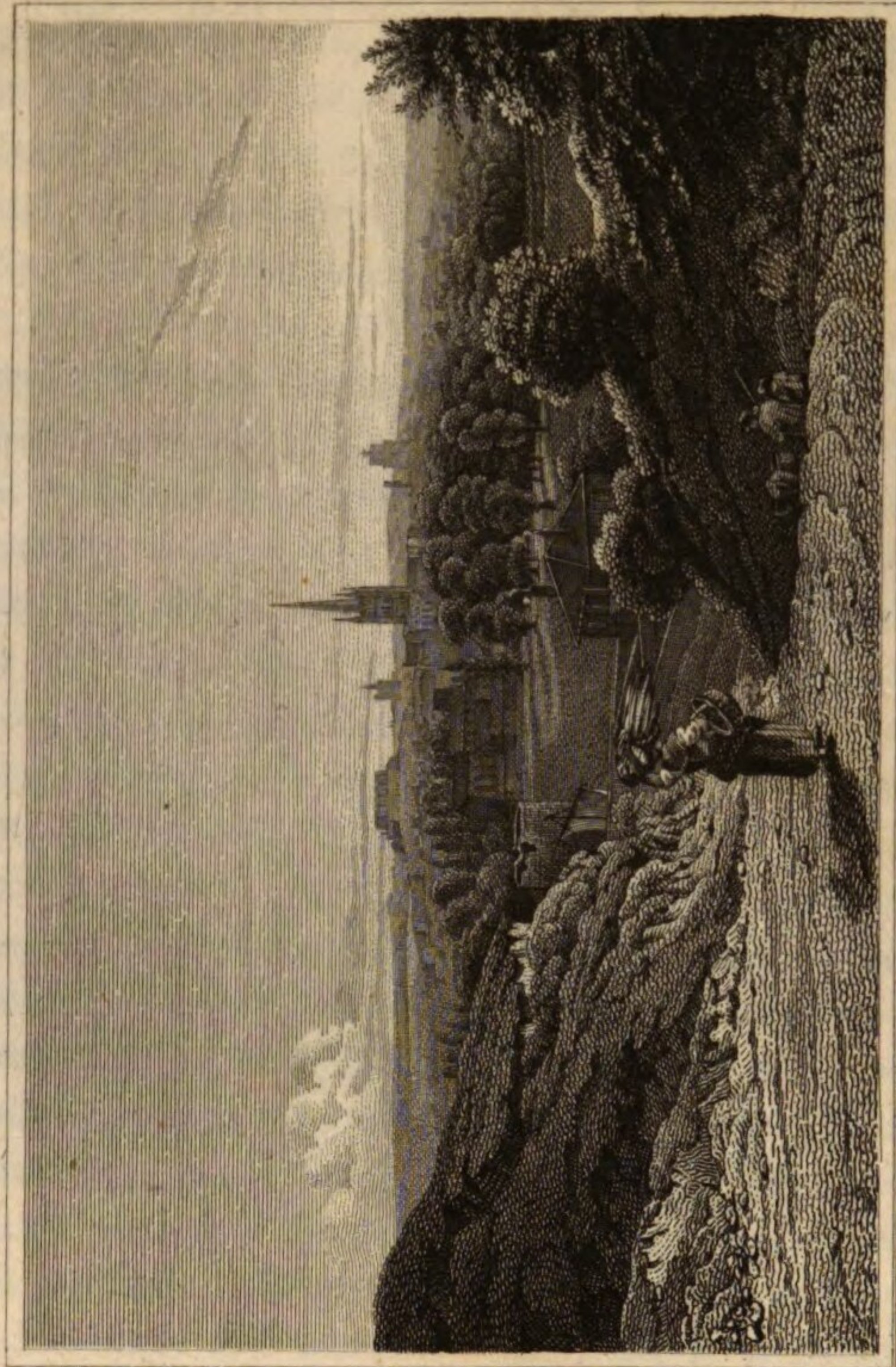
Besides the Cathedral, the Castle, &c. already noticed, various remains of antiquity are scattered throughout the city, and many of the old houses deserve the attention of the curious. Among the more modern parts, the buildings in St. Giles's-street and Surrey-street are the best.

The Assembly House is elegant; its vestibule projects about 26 feet from the principal building, and is 15 feet wide. Ascending four steps, upon the right, is a card-room 22 feet square, and of a proportionate height; and on the left another 22 feet by 28. Above these card-rooms are two others of the same dimensions; and over the vestibule a store-room. The long-room is 66 feet by 23; from the ceiling, very neatly stuccoed, five elegant glass lustres are suspended. This room has five windows on the south side, and a Venetian one at the west end: it is wainscoted round about nine feet high, and above are stucco pannels, ornamented with festoons. The small room is 50 feet by 27; the ceiling the same as the long room, and, excepting four brass chandeliers, is ornamented much the same as the other. The orchestras are over the doors at the entrance of each room. The tea-room

is between the two rooms appropriated to dancing; the communication is by two doors, so constructed as to be easily removed, so that the eye may at once command a suit of rooms of 143 feet, illuminated by ten branches; and the company forming into one line, may dance the whole length of the building.

Black Friars Bridge, by some persons deemed the handsomest bridge in the city, it is to be observed, was formerly called New Bridge, being built of timber in the reign of Henry V.; rebuilt in the reign of Edward IV., and in 1586 again rebuilt with stone. This last structure also becoming ruinous, and it being thought that its three arches impeded the current too much in the time of a flood, it was taken down in 1784, and a new one constructed by Mr. Soane, of Portland stone, consisting only of one arch. As this was known to be liable to a great pressure of weight, it was necessary to have it as flat as possible without injuring the navigation. The chord-line of the arch, however, is 42 feet: the foundations of the abutments are planked and piled; and the *voussoirs* of the arch have their joints worked perfectly smooth, and are set in dry milled lead. In the middle of each *voussoir*, two cubes of iron, of three pounds weight, are inserted, and let equally into each stone; the channels are sunk from the tails of the *voussoirs* to the cavities of the iron joggles, and both of these run full with lead: the whole is ornamented with iron railing. The steps, proposed in Mr. Soane's plan to have been laid next to St. George's, Bridge-street, could not be introduced on account of the houses being too close on that side.

The keels and wherries. These are in a great measure peculiar to the navigation between Norwich and Yarmouth, and are supposed to be superior to the small craft upon any other stream in England, as carrying a larger burden, and being worked at smaller expense. They have but one mast, which



Engraved by J. Varrell from a Drawing by Thistle, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

The City of
NORWICH,
NORFOLK.

Pubd 4 Feb. 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

lets down by a windlass placed at the head, carry one large square sail, are covered close by hatches, and have a cabin superior to many coasting vessels, in which it is not unusual for the keelman and his family to live. They are never navigated by more than two men, and often by a man and his wife, or one man and a boy. The usual passage for a loaded keel is from 12 to 16 hours; when light, they perform it in five hours. The river is sufficiently broad in all places to permit two loaded keels to pass each other, and in some parts it is twice that breadth. In the whole distance of 32 miles there is no obstruction by a lock or a bridge. This kind of craft carry grain of every sort grown in the county, flour, &c. to Yarmouth, besides the goods manufactured at Norwich for foreign markets. In return, from Yarmouth they bring coals, grocery, ironmongery, fir-timber, wine, spirits, &c. The freight for grocery and other heavy goods imported does not exceed 1s. 6d. per ton; but smaller articles pay about 4½d. the hundred weight. The wherries are from 15 to 25 tons burden; keels from 40 to 60. The mast of the wherries is placed at the head, that of keels in the middle. The passage depends upon the wind. When favourable, they sail very quickly; against the wind, they are pushed by long poles called *quants*, which reach to the bottom, and are applied to the men's shoulders: this is a very slow and laborious process.

There are two particularly good general prospects of the city; one on the south-east from the meadows leading towards Thorpe; the other on the north-east from the shooting ground. But in this respect Norwich is eminently favoured: it abounds with beautiful prospects, and looks well from almost every point of view. The prospects just mentioned are far superior to any thing of the kind in England, perhaps equal to any in Europe.

The village of Thorpe, about two miles distant from Norwich, on the eastern side, is delightfully situated on the southern side of a hill, with the navigable river, the meadows, and the rich plantations of the late General Money in front. This has induced many opulent citizens to take up their residence here. Of course several gentlemen having erected handsome houses, and laid out large gardens, these, combined with the views down the river, and over the adjacent county, and with the salubrity of the air, &c. have caused this *Richmond of Norfolk* to be placed upon an equality with any of the most charming inland villas in the kingdom.

On the other side of Norwich, passing *Hartford Bridge*, two miles and a half distant, on the right we perceive Keswick. The name of Keswick is derived from *Case Wic*, the cottage upon the Wic, or winding of the river; to which the situation, which is on the river's side, exactly corresponds. Here is the elegant villa of Richard Gurney, esq. In the Confessor's time this manor was a *berewic* to Hethell Manor, and was owned by *Olf*, a thane of that king, and in the Conqueror's time by Roger Bigod. The church was dedicated to All Saints, and there was an image of the Virgin in it. In 1505, Robert Curson was buried before it, and gave a good legacy towards the reparation of this church, which, notwithstanding, in 1597 was pulled down. The steeple, still standing, is round, but very small, as was the church: the churchyard is ploughed up to the walls. It is on a hill between Hartford Bridge and Intwood, on the south side of the river. There are very few houses here, but in the village in the adjoining parish was the fine old seat called *Intwood Hall*, at which Sir Thomas Gresham, knight, son of Sir Richard, in the year 1549 entertained John Dudley, the great Earl of Warwick, when on his way to combat with the Norfolk rebels, under Kett. This

house Sir Thomas afterwards enlarged, and left it a curious specimen of the style of building then prevalent. The manor was sold, about the year 1596, to Henry Hobart, esq.; and again at his death by his son: it has since become the property of the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

From Hartford Bridge there is a good road to Buckenham, which, quitting the direct road, we shall pursue as far as Tacolneston, passing Mangreen Hall, Swardiston, and Mulbarton.

The village of SWARDISTON, in Edward the Confessor's time, belonged to Ording, a Dane, one of the Confessor's thanes or noblemen. About the year 1559, Thomas Aldrich, esq. was buried by the font in Swardiston church, and left Mangreen Hall to Cicely his wife.

Mangreen Hall is about half a mile north-east of the church, originally dedicated to St. Andrew; but about the year 1400 re-dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin. In the windows there were the effigies of the twelve Apostles, some of which still remain, with two broken representations of benefactors on their knees.

MULBARTON. This village in the Conqueror's time was called Molke, or Great Barton, and the manor was then in possession of Roger Bigod. In the time of Henry III. it belonged to Thomas de Sanct Omero, or St. Omer, justice itinerant for Cambridgeshire, who obtained of that monarch the privilege of a fair for this village, and free warren to his manor. In the year 1285 he claimed view of *frank pledge*, assize of bread and ale, and all other liberties attaching to a court leet. He also claimed the privilege of *infangthef*, and erected a gallows here, upon which in the same year was hanged one Walter Godwyne, taken on this manor, and convicted of felony in the court leet held there. But as it appeared that this, without a royal grant, was an assumed liberty, an order was made that the

lord should be disseised of this liberty, and the gallows taken down. The church was erected by this baron, and the windows were highly ornamented with stained glass. Against the west wall of the nave is a mural monument to the memory of Sir Edwin Rich, and on the top of it a large hourglass, and underneath the following inscription :

“ Our life is like an hourglass ; and our *riches* are like the sand in it, which runs with us but the time of our continuance here, and then must be turned up by another.”

Thetford gave me birth, and Norwich breeding,
Trinity College in Cambridge learning ;
Lincoln's Inn did teach me law and equity ;
Reports I have made in the Courts of Chancery.
And though I cannot skill in rhymes, yet know it
In my life I was mine own death's poet ;
For he who leaves his work to others trust,
May be deceived when he lies in the dust ;
And now I have travelled through all these ways,
Here I conclude the story of my days ;
And here my rhymes I end, then ask no more,
Here lies Sir Edwin *Rich*, who lov'd the poor.”

He was buried in the year 1675, in the 81st year of his age. This village was the birthplace of Sir Thomas Richardson, whose father was rector of the parish ; he was bred to the law, and became so eminent as to be appointed Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, Nov. 28, 1626, and died about eight years afterwards. He was interred in Westminster abbey, where an inscription on a brass plate contains some account of his life and death.

TACOLNESTON, commonly called Tacleston, derived its name of *Villa Tacolvi* from one of its ancient lords, and is celebrated as the birthplace of John Tascephaus, who was prior of the White Friars or Carmelites in Norwich, in the year 1404. He was a learned di-

vine, a powerful orator, and a man of rigid piety; but his intolerant spirit obscured all his brightest qualifications. Hence what was in his time called Lollardism felt the effects of his intemperate zeal.

Tacolneston Hall is a fine brick mansion, consisting of a body and two wings: the body is three stories high, and has the attic windows placed in its gable-ended roof. The chimneys are formed of circular clusters. It is said to have been erected about the year 1670, by Richard Browne de Sparkes, the manor being then in the Browne family.

A short distance from this place there is a road leading to the villages of Forncett St. Mary and Forncett St. Peter, lying between this road and the high road from London to Norwich.

FORNCETTS. The manor which gave a name to the two Forncetts at this time includes several ancient *berewics*, or hamlets; one of these is called Kettleton End, anciently Kekeling's town or Kekelington; and this, with *Tuanatuna*, or Tanaton End, makes up the parish of Forncett St. Peter, which, not known by that name in the Confessor's time, was only a berewic to Forncett, and had then only one church, called Forncett St. Mary, to which St. Peter is, and always has been, a chapel of ease. Forncett in the Confessor's time, with the appendant berewics or manors held of it, made it a grand manor. No less than 16 of these dependencies are enumerated in Domesday book, and these constituted the *honour* of Forncett.

When this manor was the property of Roger Bigod, first Earl of Norfolk, it was distinguished for having the *Knighten court*, usually held here every three weeks, to which were attached five different officers, viz. an auditor, a feodary, a collector, a serjeant, and a bailiff. At this court all the great men who held their several manors, lands, or tenements of the Norfolk honour, were obliged to attend in person, or by their attorneys,

to do suit and service, and compound for castle-guard service of the earl's castle at Norwich. This lordship was the property of the late Duke of Norfolk.

Returning from Tacolneston towards Norwich, on the left we see several villages, and among the most remarkable is Ashwell Thorp; before we come to which we perceive Fundenhill.

FUNDENHILL, or Fundenhall. This village, under the Confessor, mostly belonged to one of his thanes, named Burkart; he was also a patron of the church, which had 24 acres of glebe. Aluric, a freeman of Bishop Stigand, had another part, and there was a berewic in Nelonde, or Nayland, which belonged to it. Walter de Dol, lord of Habetuna, or Hapton, became lord here, and made these two villages one manor. He had them both of Roger Bigod. This town was a league in length, and half a league in breadth. The manor was very early in a family which took its name from the town of North Creke, where they were lords, and always resided; but from this family the manor at length passed into that of Ashwell Thorp. There are three bells in the steeple of this church; and the rood loft is whole and painted, and in the middle of it is a shield painted with the arms of the East Angles, and round them in old English letters:

Ave Rex Gentis Anglorum Tu Rex Anglorum,

O Eadmunde

Flos Martyrum velud Rosa vel Lilium.

Next to this is a P, with the cross keys, for Peter, and the arms of Flixton Nunnery, that house being founded in honour of St. Catherine. Next is a crown and mitre, and S. N. for St. Nicholas, the patron of the church. Here are two or three stones stripped of their brass plates, under one of which lies John Kemp of Fundenhall.

ASHWELL THORP stands at a distance, a little further from the Attleborough road.

This town was anciently called Thorp only, but to distinguish it from so many Thorps in the county about King Stephen's time, Ashwell was prefixed to Thorp: though this seems to have been a well inhabited place, the name of Ashwell does not occur in Domesday book. Here, in the year 1131, Sir John de Thorpe founded the free chapel of St. Mary the Virgin at Ashwell, and built a house for the residence of a chaplain or chauntry priest to perform daily service, &c. In 1393, Sir Edmund de Thorpe, senior, died, and was buried by Beatrix his wife, in the chancel of the church of Ashwell Thorp. He left five marks to any one who would make a pilgrimage for him to St. James the Apostle; and legacies to his tenants at Thorp, Fundenhale, Hapton, Wrenningham, Colkirk, and Little Massingham, where he was lord. He left many rings, jewels, &c. to Joan his wife, during her life, and afterwards to Sir Edmund, his eldest son and heir; and particularly the *murrey cup*, tipped with silver, which is the charter cup of Thorp. This was to descend from heir to heir to all that should be lords of Thorp in his line. He also bequeathed them three gold rings, set with oriental sapphires. To Edmund, his heir, he left all his goods in his manor-houses at Colkirk, with Appleton Hall and Little Massingham.

Sir Edmund, his heir, new roofed and glazed the church and chancel at Thorp, and founded Thorp's chapel for his own burial-place and his successors, on the north side of the chancel.

Some time after 1417, Sir Edmund de Thorpe, another of this family, was slain at the siege of Lover's Castle in Normandy, with the Lords Scales and D'Arcy. His body was brought to England, and buried in a new aisle which he had added to the parish church of Ashwell Thorp. On a tomb are his effigies, with those of his lady, in alabaster, lying under a wooden canopy.

He is represented in complete armour, a helmet under his head, a crown and plume for his crest, and his sword by his side. A greyhound couches at his feet, and a lapdog at hers. In the shields round the tomb, supported by angels, there are quartered various family arms. From the Howards family, Thorp descended by marriage to that of Bouchier. Sir John was made Knight of the Bath on the marriage of the Duke of York, King Edward the IVth's second son, with the daughter and heiress of the Duke of Norfolk. In the seventh year of Henry VII. Sir John was retained to serve the king with two spearmen, himself as one, and each accompanied by his *custrel* or servant, a page and nine demi-lances, serving on horseback, for an expedition fitting out against France. In October, 1491, the king landed at Calais, and laid siege to Boulogne; but a peace being made at sea, on the eighth of November, to which the knights and peers assented, among the number was the name of this Sir John Bouchier. In the 11th year of Henry VII. he was summoned to parliament as Lord Berners; and in the sixth year of Henry VIII. he was, by patent, made Chancellor of the Exchequer for life, and in the same year attended the king's sister, Lady Mary, into France. On his return, the king conferred several manors upon him: and at his Majesty's command he translated the Chronicles of Froissart into English, to which he added notes. He also translated various other works from the French, Spanish, and Italian languages; viz. the Life of Sir Arthur, an Armorican knight; the famous Exploits of Hugh de Bourdeaux; Marcus Aurelius; and the Castle of Love. He wrote a Treatise, entitled "The Duties of the Inhabitants of Calais," and a comedy called "Ite in Vineam." He died whilst he was deputy general of the town and marches of Calais, and was interred in St. Mary's church there. He had issue only two daughters.

The Knevets, who succeeded this family in conse-

quence of a deficiency in the male line of their predecessors, were highly respectable. Sir Thomas Knevet, of Ashwell Thorp, who lived in 1616, was a man of great repute, and much beloved for his hospitality and good nature, for which he was so eminent, that a ballad is preserved by Blomefield, said to contain an *incredible story*, the tradition of which had been of long standing. Thomas Knevet, esq. the son of the former, at the coronation of Charles I. was summoned to receive the honour of Knight of the Bath: he died at Henham Hall, in Suffolk, the seat of his son-in-law, Sir John Rous, and was buried at Ashwell Thorp, in July, 1658. Under a Latin inscription, on a black marble gravestone in Thorp's chapel, are these lines—

Here lies loyal Knyvet who hated anarchy,
Liv'd a true protestant, and died with monarchy.

The church has a square tower and four bells, a chancel and a chapel on the north. A handsome stone front here was erected by Thomas Knevet, esq. and Katherine Burgh, his wife. In the east window are the remains of a knight in armour, kneeling at an altar tomb; and opposite him, a woman kneeling in the dress of that age. In 1504, the tenor bell was cast at the expense of Sarah Sawyer and others.

Having passed Ashwell Thorp about a mile, a road leads to the village of Wrenningham, about four miles from Wymondham, to which there is a road leading through this village.

WRENNINGHAM. Two manors formerly bore the name of Great and Little Wrenningham. The site of *Belhouse Hall* is in this parish. This manor belonged to Levolt, a thane of the Confessor's before the conquest; it afterwards came into the Norfolk family, and was by one of them given to the Creykes. The Belhouses had it again in 1415, though it ultimately

came into the possession of the Thorpes. The church is small, and has nothing in it remarkable.

Leaving Wrenningham on the left, we arrive at BRACONASH. This name signifies the Broad Leas, and was part of the possessions of Roger Bigod, at the conquest. One part he gave to Olf the Dane, who joined it to Flordon manor. It came afterwards to the Peverels, and from them passed through several branches to the Woods, the Welds, and others. When Sir Hugh Peverel was patron here, a gild was held in the church. The present building is 36 feet long and 16 broad: there is no steeple, but one bell hanging in a shed at the south-east corner of the churchyard. In the chancel windows are the arms of the East Angles, and of England.

From Braconash, a road leads directly to HETHILL, which lies a little south of Carleton. This also belonged to Olf the Dane. After the Norman conquest it came to the Bigods, and continued with them till Hugh Bigod, the third Earl of Norfolk, divided it into several parts or manors. The church is dedicated to All Saints, and had a gild kept before it; and in 1277 the manor of Cursons was obliged to find a certain quantity of oil for the lamps in the church, and the chapel of the manor-house, with a certain number of loaves to distribute on the obit of Will de Curson, always held on St. Catherine's day. The dole bread given away on the anniversary of Sir William de Carleton was equal to what a bushel and a half of barley would make.

Pennes manor contains *Hethill Hall*. This, in the year 1285, was denominated a capital messuage, with 237 acres of land adjoining, and 20 acres of wood extending into Swardiston, Dunston, Mulbarton, Carleton, Braconash, Wrenningham, Nelonde, or Neyland, and Swansthorpe.

About a mile from Braconash, on our way towards

Norwich, is a road to Carleton St. Mary, and from thence we soon rejoin the high road.

CARLETON ST. MARY was commonly called Carleton Curson, from the lords of that name, and takes its denomination from the *carles*, or countrymen, that anciently inhabited it: Carleton signifying no more than the *Carles* or *Churles* town. Formerly there were two churches here, standing within 50 yards of each other, a roadway being the only boundary between the churchyards. The present church is dedicated to St. Mary, and was appropriated to the nuns of Masham ever since their foundation. At the east end of this is an old altar and chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, with a stone stripped of its brass, under which William Appleyard, of this town, gent. was buried in 1481.

Having rejoined the direct road, on the opposite side, we perceive Bixley and Arminghall.

BIXLEY. Here is *Bixley Hall*, a handsome well-built house, erected by Sir Edward Ward, about the middle of the last century. It has three fronts, each containing three stories from the basement, and the attic windows are placed in the roof. It is now the seat of the Earl of Roseberry, and is situated in well wooded grounds, near the high road from Norwich to Bungay. The church is a small antique building, dedicated to *St. Wandragesilius*, the abbot, to whose image pilgrimages were formerly made. The present fabric was erected by William de Dunwich, one of the bailiffs of Norwich in the year 1272.

ARMINGHALL is so called from Almeric, its Saxon owner. The church here is very small, having neither aisles nor porch. A small chapel, dedicated to St. Andrew, stood at a place called Belhawe, but has been long demolished.

Arming Hall was built by the eldest son of Nicholas Hearne, of Tibenham in Norfolk, who was clerk of the crown. This seat was sold by Francis Herne, esq.

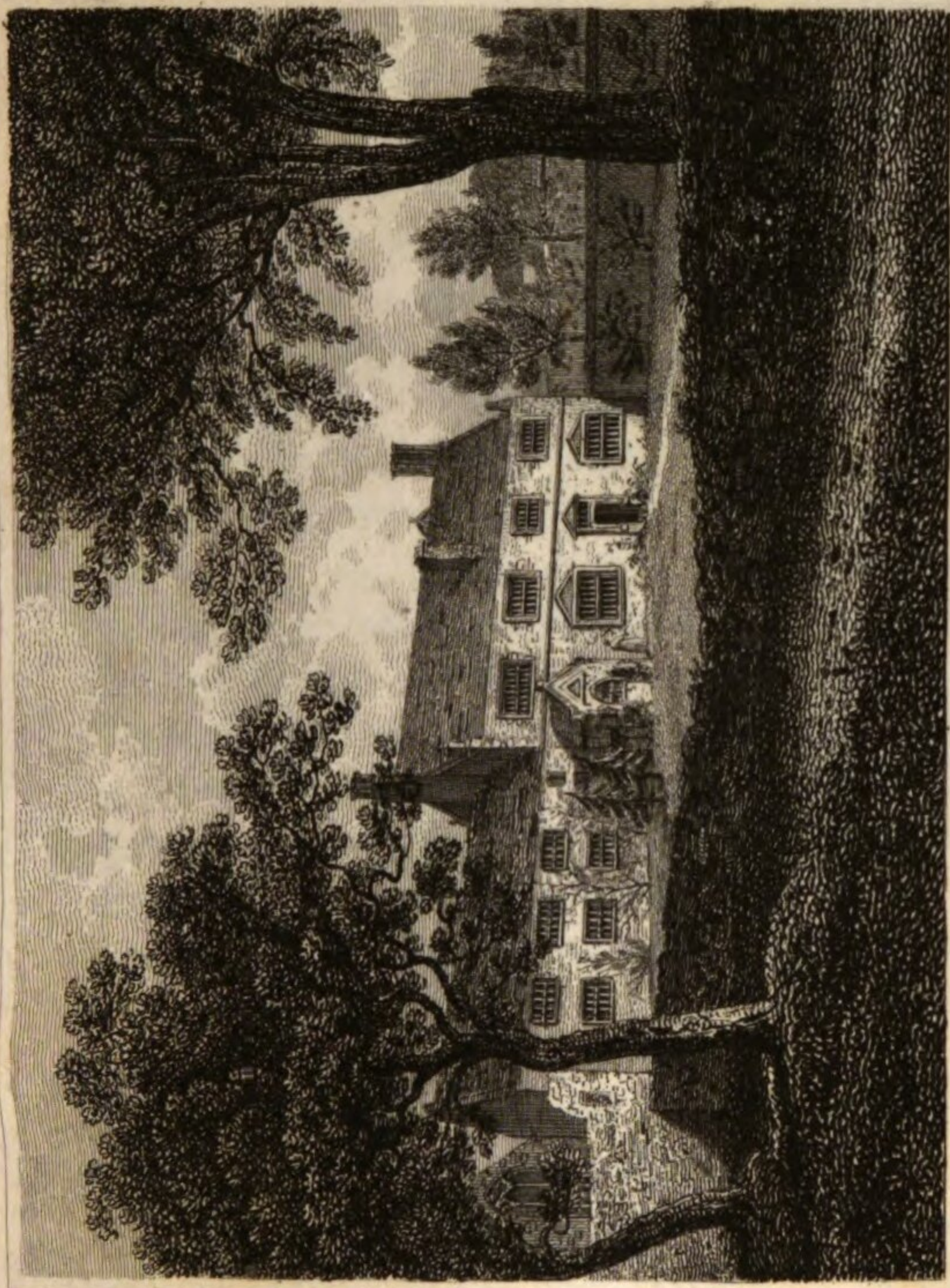
to Dame Elizabeth Pettus, mother of Sir Horace Pettus, bart. who was the owner in Blomefield's time.

Old *Arminghall*, now a modern farm-house, has a very curious doorway remaining, which is worked in with the wall.

On the same side of the road is situated CAISTOR ST. EDMUND'S, at present an inconsiderable village, about three miles south-west of Norwich, upon the little river Tesse: according to Camden, and other respectable historians, it was formerly the *Venta Icenorum*, or principal station of the Romans in the country of the *Iceni*. It was about the year 420 after Christ that the Romans in general quitted Britain; but having afterwards sent detachments of troops to assist occasionally in repelling the inroads of the Scots and Picts, they cannot be said to have finally withdrawn themselves till the year 446, when Caistor being in a great measure deserted, fell rapidly into decay, and the inhabitants fixing upon the place where Norwich now stands, on account of its being higher ground, on a better stream, and more convenient for fishing, the latter increased at the expense of the former.

The remains of the extensive works of the Romans here were visible in the year 1749, and the bricks were found to be exceedingly hard, little worse than when they were laid down. Speaking of this celebrated spot, Blomefield observes, "this was the ancient *Castrum* which the Romans possessed in this country; and this they called *Garianonum*, from its situation on the *Garienis* or *Yare*, and so they made it a guard as well as an entry into that part of the country now called Suffolk."

The remains of these ancient works still exhibit a square single vallum or rampart, that had been enclosed with a strong wall of flints and Roman bricks. Indeed, most of the old houses in the parish are built of these materials. The grand entrance was in the



Engraved by W. Greig from a Drawing by T. Hodgson, for the Excursion through Norfolk.

THORPE HALL.

NORFOLK.

Pub. & Sold by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

middle, or the east part, having towers at each corner; and below it, on the west side, which was washed by the Taus, or *Tesse*, there was a water gate with a round tower near it, where vessels used to unload their cargoes. The area of the whole site contained about 30 acres. Within the rampart at the south-east corner, the church, now standing, is wholly built of flints and Roman bricks, taken from the old walls of the camp. At the south-east end of the chancel, in the bottom of what was the Roman trench, is a well of spring water about five feet deep, and always very cold. No urns ever having been found, it is supposed there was no established burial-place here, but that this was at North Elmham, where a greater number of urns have been found than at any other place in the counties of Norfolk or Suffolk. But though Caistor had been deserted by its population after the Romans left it, it was still regarded as a good military position, and as such was in the hands of the Saxon, English, and Danish kings, before, during the heptarchy, and after it, till King Edward the Confessor gave it to his kinsman, Thurkettle, a noble Dane, who had obtained the keeping of this place, with a grant of a part of it: he gave up this part with Thorp, in common to the monasteries of St. Edmund and St. Benedict, at the Holm. Blomefield asserts that he had seen above 100 Roman coins found about Caistor, and had a number in his own possession, which he presented to the cabinet of coins in the public library in the city of Norwich. There were a great number of the denarii, with Romulus and Remus sucking the wolf; and those with *Constantinopolis* and the genius of that city on the reverse. The most common were Constantine's, with the reverses of *Gloria Exercitus*, and *Militum Reparatio*, with the figures of a Roman taking a Briton captive, probably struck when Constantine quelled the British insurrection during his reign; the intention of this being to

show that his legions had recovered the credit they had lost in a former battle with the Britons.

The stone font in the church of Caistor is supposed to have been given by Richard de Caistor. On it are carved the emblems of the *Holy Trinity*, the *Four Evangelists*, the *instruments of the Passion*, and the *Arms of the East Angles, West Saxons, and Bury Abbey*.

To account for the sea coming up to Caistor, near Norwich, it is to be observed, that Sweyne, with his fleet of Danes, sailed quite up to the castle. The marshes between Norwich and the ground upon which Yarmouth now stands were then covered with water, and formed a large arm of the sea. When the small size of the ships of those days is considered, there is nothing improbable in this account; and it is besides well known that in the reign of Canute, Norwich was a fishing town, and it was not likely that fishermen should fix upon a place for their residence near 30 miles distant from the ocean.

To fix the idea of the resemblance between a Roman camp and what may be deemed a regular fortification, it may not be improper in this place to quote Josephus on the subject, which, to use the words of an elegant modern writer, “peoples to the imagination such extensive works, now dreary and overgrown with wild shrubs and moss, and conveys, in vivid imagery, distinct notions of the general bustle which prevailed at taking possession of the camp, and of the excellent order with which affairs were afterwards disposed.”

“As soon as the Romans have marched into an enemy’s land, they do not begin to fight till they have walled their camp about; nor is the fence they raise rashly made or uneven. Nor do they all abide in it; nor do those that are in it take their places at random. If it happens that the ground is uneven, it is first levelled. Their camp is square by measure, and car-

penters are ready in great numbers, with their tools, to erect their buildings for them.

“ As for what is within the camp, it is set apart for tents ; but the outward circumference hath the resemblance to a wall, and is adorned with towers at equal distances ; whilst between the towers stand the engines for throwing arrows and darts, and for sling-ing stones ; and there lay all other engines that can annoy the enemy, all ready for their several operations.

“ They also erect four gates, one at every side of the circumference, and those large enough for the entrance of beasts, and wide enough for making excursions, if occasion should require. They divide the camp within into streets, very conveniently, and place the tents of the commanders in the middle ; but in the midst of all is the general's own tent, in the nature of a temple.

“ In short, the whole appears to be a *city*, built on a sudden, with its market-place, and place for handicraft trades, and with seats or stations for the officers, superior and inferior, where, if any difference arise, their causes are heard and determined. Besides the wall, a trench is drawn round the whole, whose depth is four cubits, or six feet, and its breadth equal. They live together in the camp by companies, and each company hath its wood, corn, and water brought to it as it is needful. And they neither sup nor dine as they please themselves singly, but all together. When they are to go out of their camp, the trumpet gives a sound, and instantly they take down their tents, and all is made ready for their march. When the trumpet sounds again, they lay their baggage suddenly upon their mules and other beasts of burden, and stand at the place of starting, ready to march, at the same time setting fire to their camp. And when the trumpet sounds a third time, a crier standing at the general's right hand asks them thrice, *whether they are ready*.

On which they all lifting up their right hands, answer, *we are ready*, and march forth directly, without noise, and keeping their ranks."

The camp thus formed in outline, and entered by four convenient gates, was internally arranged with great judgment and care. The standard or eagle was raised on the spot chosen by the general as the site of his tent, usually placed on the highest ground, for obvious reasons, and styled the *prætorium*. This contained the consul's tent, with a neighbouring *sacellum* and *augurale*, a parade or court for assembling the officers, and the whole area of the interior of the camp was divided into lines or streets, generally 50 feet broad. Such an imposing spectacle as this did Caistor once exhibit.

At a small distance from Caistor St. Edmund's, but on the high road, about a mile and a half from Hartford Bridge, or four miles from Norwich, we arrive at DUNSTON, or the town by the dune, or hill. At the conquest, this, though but a small village, was in no less than five parts. A singular circumstance is connected with the history of this place. In 1349, when a general plague had depopulated a great part of the realm, it was returned, "That most of the parishioners here were dead, the land left untilled, so that the prioress could not pay the king's taxes for it, nor the 10*l.* per annum for the bishop." The church, which is small, contains nothing remarkable excepting the following punning epitaph.

PAR NOBILE.

Here lies a noble pair, who were in name,
In heart, in mind, in sentiments the same;
The arithmetic rule then can't be true,
For *one* and *one* did never here make *two*.

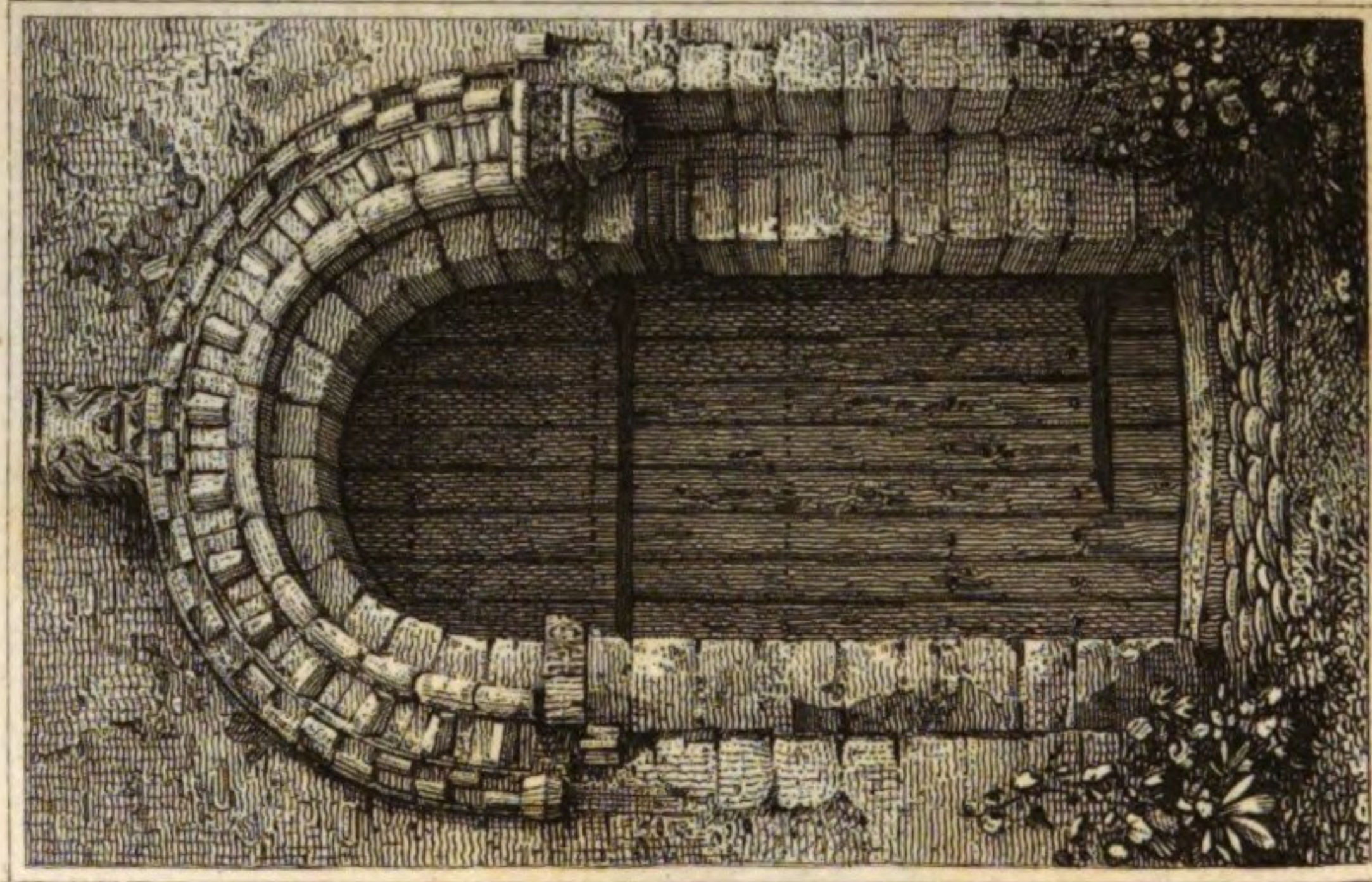
Dunston Hall is the residence of the Rev. Mr. Long.
Nearly on a line with Dunston are FRAMINGHAM



Drawn & Eng^d by T. H. G. for the Excursions through Norfolk.

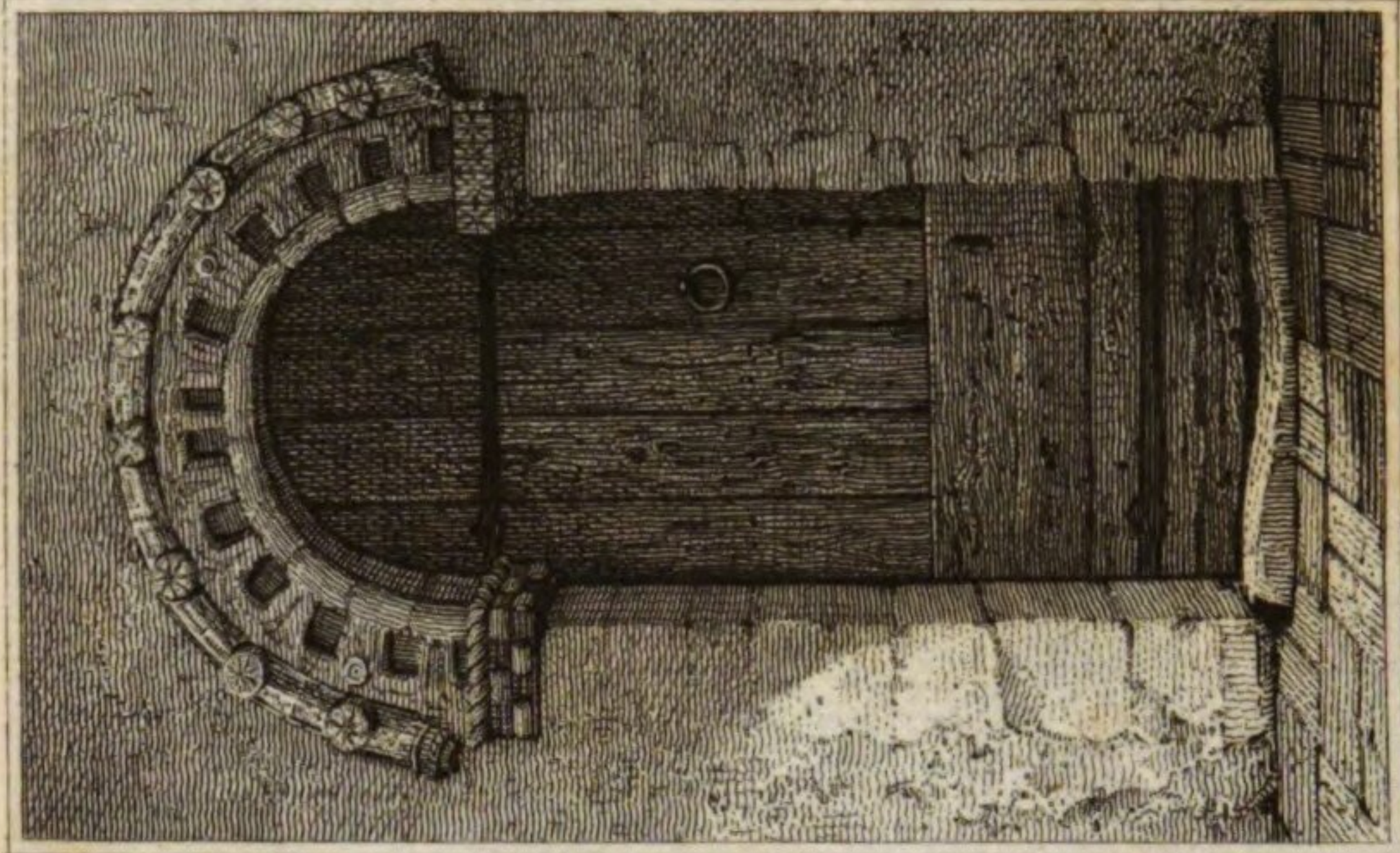
Entrance to
ARMINGHALL OLD HALL.
The property of the R^t Hon^{ble} the Earl of Roseberry.
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Dec. 1818, by Longman & C^o Paternoster Row.



North.

Door-ways



South.

FRAMINGHAM EARLE CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Drawn & Engraved by J. H. H. H. for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Pubd. Mar. 1. 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

EARL, and FRAMINGHAM PIGOT: these two villages were only one at the time of the conquest. Mr. Le Neve says the name of this place signifies the seat or the abode of the son of *Frame*, who was a Saxon of great note in these parts. The church of Framingham Earl has a circular tower at the west end: it consists of a nave and a chancel, separated by a Saxon arch, ornamented by a zig-zag and other mouldings. The south door is used as the entrance, but the workmanship of this and the interior arch are much disfigured by the officious white-washing they have sustained. The capitals of the pillars of the north door have been much defaced; but from one of them that remains unimpaired, they appear to have been highly wrought.

PORINGLAND, East and West, Great and Little, are at no great distance from the Framinghams. The church of Great Porland, as it is commonly called, was founded before the Conqueror's time. This appears to have been highly decorated with paintings before the reformation, of which few remain, though in the south chancel window the Salutation is very perfect; in another window is St. Catherine, with the wheel; and in a third, on the north, St. Christopher carrying our Saviour over the water. Here is also a fine bust of the Virgin Mary, crowned; and in the upper part of the east chancel gable in the churchyard three niches, one of them retaining part of the effigies of the Trinity. The present fabric, except the steeple, which is much older, was finished about the year 1432. Little Poringland contains nothing remarkable.

SWANTHORPE is on the high road, about five miles and a half from Norwich. This little place before the conquest was known by the name of Thorp only, but at length began to be called Swain's Thorp, from the swains or countrymen living there. Gilbert de Sweynes-thorp was the first that assumed the name; but in 1195 it was settled by Robert, son of Reginald and

Ulf de Sweynesthorp, and William his son, on William de Fulbourne, for life, from whom the manor took the name of *Fulbourne Hall*. In the year 1286, Isaac, chaplain to the Jews at Norwich, and many others, both Jews and Christians, were tried for breaking the churches of Sweynesthorp and Newton. The church of St. Mary at the reformation being in a decaying state, was taken down: it had been called the *Old Church* ever since 1503. That of St. Peter's is rather small; the steeple, 50 feet high, is round at the bottom, and sexangular at top, and contains four bells.

Rather before we come to Swanthorpe, we meet with a road on the left, leading to STOKE HOLY CROSS. The church here is a very conspicuous object, being situated upon a considerable eminence. The building is but small. The steeple, about 50 feet high, contains three bells. Blomefield observes, from the register of this parish, that it had been the residence of many good families, particularly the Billingsfords and the Burmans. Upon the tomb of two of the latter in this church is the following strangely jingling couplet:

In the womb, of this tomb, twins in expectation lay,
To be born, in the morn, of the resurrection day.

NEWTON FLOTMAN, about seven miles from Norwich, is so called from the flote, or ferry-boat, that used to convey passengers over the river Taus, which though once considerable, is now but small, dividing Newton from Tasburgh. It is generally fordable, excepting when the waters are out, when it may be passed by a very good brick arched bridge. In the Conqueror's time this was a very inconsiderable place, the old village of Rainthorpe, now lost in this, having been by much the largest part of it. Several of the Blundeville family are buried in the vault of the

church, over which, against the north wall, is an arched monument, with the figure of Noah's ark, and this inscription; *Extra Ecclesiam non est Salus*. "Out of the church there is no salvation." On each side is a square pillar *vert*, the whole supported by four marble pillars, dividing it into three partitions; in the first of which are three men in armour, in a praying posture, with each a reading desk before him, and over them their names, Richard, Ralph, and Edward Blundeville: the first, aged 85, died in 1490; the second, aged 45, in 1514; and the third, aged 75, in 1568. The versification of their epitaph possesses uncommon smoothness for the times.

Here lyes in grave, now three times done,
The grandsire, father, and the sone;
Theyr names, theyr age, and when they dyed,
Above theyr heads is specyfyed;
Theyr shield of arms doth eyke declare
The stock with whom they matched were;
They lived well and dyed as well,
And now with God in heaven they dwell,
And thear do prayse his holy name;
God graunt that we may do the same.

From this place, at about a mile's distance, is **FLORDON**, or the *Flour Downs*. The church here has a round tower, so peculiar to some parts of Norfolk. It contains no memorial of any kind; but there is an old stone in the porch, which being broad at one end and narrow at the other, indicates its having been laid over some priest, who, according to Blomefield, was Roger Northwold, rector here, who died in the year 1371.

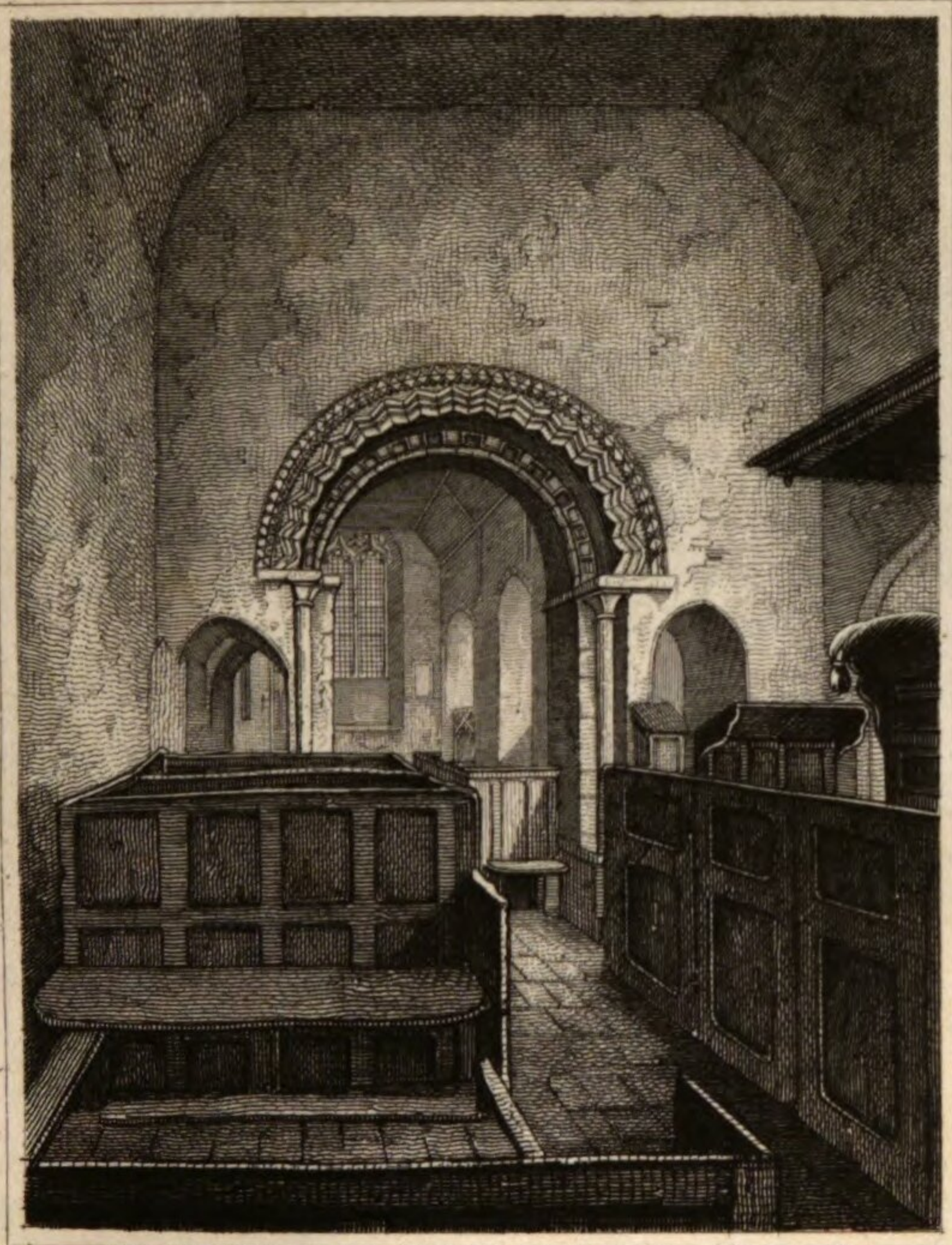
Nearly opposite to Newton Flotman are the **SHOT-TISHAMS**. This name signifies the village of Scots, or portions. In the Confessor's and Conqueror's surveys, it was in above 12 parts. It had four capital manors,

four parish churches, and two hamlets. Shottisham All-Saints is commonly called *High Shottisham*, from the situation of the church upon an eminence. It contains, among others, an inscription upon Edward White, esq. and his wife, who both died of the sweating sickness in 1522. A great part of the land was in an unclosed and uncultivated state till the year 1781, when 3561 acres being taken in and improved, the rental was nearly doubled. Shottisham now consists of two parishes, St. Mary and All-Saints. One of these villages is noted as the birth-place of Henry Howard, youngest son of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, and brother to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, who was beheaded June 2, 1572. James I. on account of the attachment of the duke to his mother, Mary queen of Scots, released his son Henry from a state of indigence, by appointing him lord warden of the Cinque Ports, and constable of Dover castle. The same year the king created him Lord Howard of Marnhall, and soon afterwards Earl of Northampton.

Shottisham House was anciently the seat of the D'Oyleys, a family of great antiquity, who derived their name from the lordship of D'Olleia, in Normandy, one of whom came to England with the Conqueror. The windows formerly contained numerous arms blazoned in glass. The present structure, the residence of Robert Fellowes, esq. is a handsome modern house.

On the same side of the road are the Saxlinghams, Howe, and Yelverton.

SAXLINGHAM is an ancient town. The manor-house stands a little to the south of the church, and is supposed to have been built by John Heydon, who married a daughter of the Lord Willoughby. The church is small, but in the area of the chancel is a very curious monument, erected by Sir Christopher Heydon for his lady, Mirabel, with her effigies kneeling under



Engraved by W. Wallis, from a Sketch by T. Bigham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Interior of
FRAMINGHAM EARLE CHURCH.
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Mar. 1, 1818, by Longman & C^o Paternoster Row.

an arch, with a pyramid rising over her nearly the height of the building, and adorned with several hieroglyphical figures in the Egyptian style.

HOWE. This is an ancient village, and formerly gave name to a family, according to the custom of those times. The church has a round tower and one bell.

YELVERTON. This at present is a place of small interest, though the church contains a plain Saxon font, supported by circular pillars: the ornaments on the upper part are evidently more modern.

TASBURGH. This village, five miles from Caistor, derives its name from the burgh or fortification on the river Tesse, and still shows a square intrenchment containing 24 acres. About this place numerous coins, fibulas, and other Roman antiquities have been found. Opposite to this, on the north side of the water, Blomefield, alluding to Caistor, says, "they (the Romans) formed another camp; but following the river up into the country, where it divided into two streams, they preferred the first spot, where it was easy to command a passage to that station, which by way of eminence they chose to call *Castrum*." Dr. Gale, in his Commentary on Antoninus's Itinerary, says, this river was called *Taii*, and that the station *Ad Taum* was here, and indeed the parish church stands in the fortification. It was an advantageous situation for guarding the pass of the river running to Caistor, being also on a very high hill, commanding the adjacent country, and hanging over the river, which here turns eastward, and formed a convenient bay for the vessels that came up.

On the right of Tasburgh, we perceive the villages of Hapton and Tharston.

HAPTON. The manor-house here is *Hapton Hall*, and was always the jointure of the Knevet family. In the east window of the church are the arms of Thorp,

Clepton, and Caily. The stocks here have the following triplet on them :

Those that fear God and keep an honest name,
 Shall not come here to undergo the shame;
 Then you that suffer, don't true justice blame.

THARSTON is called by a variety of names in old writings, as Sterestuna, Thurston, Testun, &c.

Nine miles from Norwich we arrive at STRATTON. The name of this place is derived from *Stratum*, the paved highway or street, being on the direct road leading to the neighbouring Roman *burgh* or fortification, *Ad Taum*, or *Tasburgh*, and thence to their camp or *Castrum*. In those early times the whole of the three villages or parishes that now pass by the name of Stratton were one, and this afterwards called *Estratuna*, the street at the *eè*, or water, which now parts Stratton from Tasburgh. It is commonly called Long Stratton, the bounds being so extensive. Stratton originally belonged to the East Anglian kings. The Conqueror gave it to Alan Earl of Richmond. The whole was then four miles and three furlongs in length, and about half the breadth. *Stratton Hall*, or Stratton St. Mary's Manor, belonged to Philip Malherbe, who was succeeded by Bartholomew his son, one of the lords of Tacolneston. The fair here was granted by King John to Roger de Stratton, in 1207. The church of St. Mary, in old evidences, is commonly called *Stratton cum Turri*, or Stratton with the Steeple, from whence it appears the other two churches had none. One of the gilds here was endowed with a house called Gild Hall, and in this parish was an *anchorage* of ancient foundation, with a small chapel or oratory adjoining. At the east end of the chancel of St. Mary's church a handsome monument has been erected, on the altar part of which are the cumbent

effigies of Judge Reve and his lady, he in his judge's robes, with a roll in one hand, and another under his head: the lady has a book in her left hand, and her head is supported by two cushions. The steeple is much older than the body of the church, the latter being chiefly built by Sir Roger de Bourne, knt. and patron, about 1330, and the chancel by Richard de Bourne, his brother. The town, standing on the road from Ipswich to Norwich, is much frequented. The justices of the peace for the division met here for a long time subsequent to Kett's rebellion in 1380, when these, with the country gentlemen, had a consultation upon what was best to be done for the king's service and the county's safety. Opening a gravel-pit here in 1773, several Roman urns were found at the depth of six feet below the surface, placed in a regular arrangement. These were all mutilated except one, which was preserved in the collection of Sir John Berney, of Kirby Bedon. This vessel is curiously ornamented, and when found had a common plain pan formed of red earth laid over it. At the distance of 10 yards from this gravel-pit, and about the same depth, a sepulchral hearth was afterwards discovered, of a quadrangular form, 12 feet in diameter, and covered to the depth of three inches with a mixture of ashes and burnt earth. Here is the residence of the Rev. Mr. Boroughs.

On the left of Stratton are the villages of Hempnall, Fritton, Morningthorp, and Topcroft.

HEMPNALL contains nothing remarkable.

FRITTON, or Free Town, being part of the honour and manor of Forncett, obtained its name as being free from many things that other villages were subject to. The steeple of this church is round at the bottom and octangular at top, and has three bells. This fabric contains no memorial of any kind, excepting

the arms of Bigod, Thetford Abbey, and Brotherton, in the chancel windows.

MORNINGTHORP, or Moringthorp, commonly called Mourning Thorp, was known only by the name of Thorp in the Confessor's time. Its antiquity excepted, this place has little to recommend it to notice.

TOPCROFT. This little village has nothing remarkable in its history or situation, excepting its vicinity to *Topcroft Hall* in the parish of Bedingham, near which was a free chapel dedicated to St. Giles, of which the lords of Topcroft Hall were patrons.

On the right, about a mile distant from Stratton, is WACTON, or *Watch-town*, it is said might probably take its name from the guard upon the Roman highway at the entrance of Stratton, in order to keep up the communication with the station of Tasburgh.

Little Wacton has been so long united with Great Wacton that all the tithes are received by the rector of this parish; and the former being without house, church, or parishioner, is an absolute sinecure. The church of Great Wacton has a round tower, and on a black marble in the nave is the following inscription:

“ Samuel Cock died Oct. 17, 1717, aged 77.

Stay, hasty traveller, whoe'er you be,

Tell if you can what is become of me;

Conscious of guilt, my soul as one afraid

Fled from that body which now here is laid;

Thoughtful in life, make it your chiefest care

What you must be as well as what you are;

Death makes the stoutest hearts and hands to yield,

Cease to dispute, and tamely quit the field,

And when approaching makes all living fear

To be they know not what they know not where.”

Over a door in this church is an ancient picture of St. Christopher, painted on the wall with “ a terryble

and fereful countenance," according to the description of him in the legend, and of a size as prodigious as the height of the wall would permit, though not 12 cubits, as there stated.

Nearly on a line with Wacton is Moulton.

MOULTON. This was held of Roger Bigod at the time of the Conquest, and had a church and fifteen acres of glebe. There was a chapel of our Lady in it, and an altar stood by her image with a light burning before it. The present steeple is round at the bottom and octangular at the top, and contains five bells. John Moulton, born here, was a White Friar or Carmelite in Norwich monastery, and flourished about the year 1400. He was a pious, learned, and eloquent man, and an excellent preacher. Ninety of his sermons have been published.

The site of the church of Little Moulton is still called *All Saints*. The church was in use till 1570, and then totally demolished.

About a mile further to the right are the villages of Aslacton and Tibenham.

ASLACTON, or *Oslac's town*, commonly called Aslington, has, with the manor, been in the possession of many eminent families. In the chancel window of the church is the picture of an infant in swaddling-clothes lying in a cradle, according to tradition representing an orphan so left at the church stile. This orphan was brought up by the parish, and from the town was named Aslac, and became a man of renown, being standard bearer to King Edward III. He is said to have married the daughter of Sir Oliver Calthorp, knt. of Burnham, in this county.

TIBENHAM. This village in the Conqueror's time was a league and a half long, and one broad. The site of the manor-house of Chanons was afterwards called *Chanons Hall*, and became the seat of the Buxton family. It is about a mile south-east of the church, and

was esteemed a good old regular building, being moated round, &c. On the opposite side of the road to Moulton is Shelton.

SHELTON. This is an ancient town, being known in the Confessor's time as belonging to Bishop Stigand. In the Conqueror's time the manor was divided into three; the principal of which, called *Overhall*, belonged to Roger Bigod. It was then a league long. In 1222 the king seized Henry de Shelton's lands, because he was not in the Welsh army; and he was forced to pay four marks to have them restored. This family maintained their respectability almost in a right line of succession for a greater number of centuries than generally falls to the lot of nobility. The present church was built by Sir Ralf Shelton, knt. and is a fine uniform brick building, with a nave, two aisles, and a chancel. His name is expressed in several panes in the windows, viz. *Raf*, with an escalop shell and a tun, making Shelton on the whole.

There was a spacious mansion or manor-house here, built by Sir Ralf Shelton, in a square form, with an outside wall embattled, and a turret at each corner moated in, with a large gateplace at the entrance, which was also turreted. In the windows and in the cielings were many coats of the matches of the Sheltons; but these have been long in ruins. The demesnes and the park were sold by the Sheltons to Sir Robert Houghton. In the church is a fine cenotaph for this judge, with his effigies, in his robes, and those of his lady, with his son and his wife kneeling on the top of it.

Some of the matches in the church remain, resembling those in the windows and on the cielings in Shelton Hall, and both exactly corresponding with those in *Carrow Abbey*. The chapel in this hall was embellished with many of the arms; and the lodging-rooms here were called after the names of those fami-

lies whose arms were placed in them, as *Morley's* chamber, *Howard's* chamber, &c. Formerly a manuscript was kept at the hall, which had a drawing of the house in it, a copy of which was in Mr. Blomefield's possession, and the arms of the families into which the Sheltons had married.

HARDWICK, or *Herdewic*, about a mile from Shelton, signifies the place at the *Wic* or winding of the river, where the herd was usually fed. This was long the seat of the Gleanes and Rodneys. The church steeple here is round at the bottom, and octangular at the top.

PULHAM signifies the village of pools, or standing waters. The earliest account of this place says that it belonged to *Waldchist*, a Saxon, who forfeited all he had to King Edmund. Here was a park of 60 acres, and a wood called Grishaw of 100 acres. Here the family of the Sayers, late of Eye, resided for several hundred years. Some land here is held by *cornage*, that is, blowing a horn in the morning of the beginning of the court. The estate thus held in Blomefield's time was about 30*l.* per annum, all in a hedge; there belongs to it liberty to keep hounds, and follow the game any where in the manor: the service is performed at this time by one attending constantly to blow the horn before the court begins, for which the lord pays 4*d.* and gives him his dinner. This was the service as the lord's huntsman; and there are seven acres held by being the lord's hangman. William, son of Adam Akeman, held seven acres by divers services, all of which were remitted whenever a thief was hanged in the manor.

Pulham Market Hall is a good old house, enclosed with a high wall of brick embattled, and was formerly the mansion-house of the Percies, a younger branch of the Northumberland family. A great part of this building was erected by William Brampton, a stre-

nuous man on the king's side during Kett's rebellion. On the porch of the church here is a great quantity of stone imagery. All the building is adorned with angels' faces. On one side of the entrance an angel holds a scroll with *Ave Maria* on it. Opposite is a bishop sitting on his throne, a goat's face under him, as the *cognizance* of Morton, the book of the Holy Gospel on a stand by him, on which sits a dove with its beak close to the bishop's ear. By this stand is a crest, being the trunk of a tree *raguled*, with three arms cut off, representing the Holy Trinity. There are also eight angels, four with trumpets in their mouths, two playing on lutes, and two on violins. There are four large shields under the image of the Virgin Mary, that was placed in a niche, but has long been taken out of it. On these shields are the instruments of the Passion, the emblem of the Trinity, the arms of the East Angles and the see of Ely. Five images carved in stone, viz. a wolf sitting holding St. Edmund's head in its paws; a lion; a woodman sitting with one leg on his knee; a greyhound seiant; the fifth is defaced. Here are also the arms of Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, and on a shield three cardinal's caps and faces; and four other figures expressing by their habits the four degrees, viz. a monk, or regular, a parish priest, or secular, a gentleman, and a peasant.

In the east window in the chancel are represented the *Father*, *Son*, and *Holy Ghost*, and underneath is the *Blessed Virgin* with the Saviour in her arms, and a lily by her, as patroness of this church; and St. Peter, as patron of the church *universal*, with persons playing upon violins and other musical instruments on each side; and at their feet the wise men offering their censers, &c. with the arms of the East Angles and Ely church, and St. George and England alone.

The chapel of St. Mary Magdalen, commonly called Pulham Market Church, is a good building with a

large square tower, a handsome north porch, two aisles and a nave. This chapel is uncommonly light, and is kept very neat and clean. It is a mile at least from the mother church.

TIVETSHALL, which we pass on our right, contains two churches, both of ancient foundation before the Conqueror. The mother church is dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin; the other is a parochial chapel, whose patroness is St. Margaret. On a line with this place is

GISSING. *Gissing Hall* was an ancient building, being the seat of the Hastynges, and afterwards of the Kemps, till pulled down more than a century since by one of the latter family. The windows were adorned with numerous coats of arms. In the chamber near the hall-door were the arms of Gissing, Felton, and Framingham, and the pictures of two labourers thrashing wheatsheaves, or garbs, in allusion to Kemp's arms. The name Kemp, Blomefield observes, is derived from the Saxon word to kamp, or combat, which in Norfolk is retained to this day, a football match being called *camping*, or *kemping*. This family has been of long continuance in this county; Galfrid Kemp lived at Norwich in 1272, and Robert Kemp, esq. at Gissing in 1612. The church here has a low round steeple joined to the west end, containing five bells. Here is a vault for the family of the Kemps. A cup belonging to the altar has our Saviour's head poorly engraved upon it, and *Gysseing* A° 1567. Several gravestones in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin have lost their brasses. In the enumeration of the rectors of Gissing, John Gibbs, A. M. is mentioned as being presented by Charles II. He continued till 1690, being then ejected as a *nonjuror*. He was an odd but harmless man both in life and conversation; as after his ejection he continued to live in the north porch chamber, and lay on the stairs that led up to the rood

loft between the church and the chancel, having a window at his head, so that from his narrow couch he could see the altar. He lived to be very old.

DICKLEBOROUGH is seventeen miles from Norwich, on the high road. In the upper windows of the church here the cross swords and cross keys still remain as the emblems of St. Peter and Paul, the patrons of the gild formerly held here. On the north side of the chancel is a noble mural monument of various kinds of marble, with a lady holding a book, and under her a long inscription to the memory of Sir William Playters, of Satterley, in Suffolk, knt. and bart.

To the left of Dickleborough is STARSTON, which contains Starston Place, a good house near the church.

RUSHALL, nearer to the high road, contains Rushall Hall. This capital manor was formerly held by a person who assumed the name of Riveshale from this lordship. The priory here is now a farm-house, being so called from having anciently belonged to the priory of Buckenham. The church has nothing remarkable about it.

Nearly opposite to Dickleborough are Burston and Shimpling.

BURSTON. This is another ancient village belonging to the manors of Brockdish and Meaulings Hall, now called *Milding Hall*. The church is small, and the steeple round at bottom and octangular at the summit. The only memorial in the church is upon a black marble for Francis Alpe, gent. who died July 15th, 1670, aged 86 years. The place takes its name from the river Bure, and the ancient family of De Burston, or Briston, were lords of it.

SHIMPLING lies a little to the west of Burston. The church here appears to have been erected in the beginning of the thirteenth century, though the steeple is much older. St. George and the Dragon, and the arms of Shimpling, are carved on the front : the brasses

are taken away from all the large grave-stones in the chancel. Several of these were laid over the rectors, as appears from the chalice and wafer upon them. The other stones bearing arms are supposed to have belonged to the Shimpling and Shardelow families.

The seat of the Shardelows was in Blomefield's time called the *Place*, upon the estate of the Duke of Grafton, but formerly belonged to Isaac Pennington, alderman of London, one of the regicides that sat upon the trial of Charles I.; but living to see the restoration, his estates were seized as forfeited to Charles II. who gave this to the Duke of Grafton.

A curious dissertation upon the original use of seals occurs in Blomefield, which, as being peculiarly applicable to the illustration of the antiquities of Norfolk and Suffolk, it is necessary to notice. "I have seen," says this author, "an ancient deed made by John Camerarius, or Chambers, of Shimpling, for a gift to Richard de Kentwell, clerk, and Alice his wife, of three acres of land in this town, witnessed by Sir Gerard de Wacheson, knt. and others, which is remarkable for its never having any seal, and being dated at *Shimpling* in the churchyard, on Sunday next before Pentecost, anno 1294. This shews us that seals (as Lambard justly observes) were not in common use at this time; and therefore to make a conveyance the most solemn and public that could be, the deed was read to the parish after service in the churchyard, that all might know it, and be witnesses if occasion required. The Saxons used no seals, only signed the mark of a cross to their instruments, to which the scribe affixed their names, by which they had a double meaning; first to denote their being Christians, and then as such to confirm it by the symbol of their faith. The first sealed charter we meet with is that of Edward the Confessor to Westminster Abbey, which use he brought with him from Normandy, where he was brought up;

and for that reason it was approved of by the Norman Conqueror; though sealing grew into common use by degrees, the king at first only using it, then some of the nobility, after that the nobles in general, who engraved on their seals their own effigies covered with their coat armour; after this the gentlemen followed, and used the arms of the family for difference sake. But about the time of Edward III. seals became of general use, and they that had no coat armour sealed with their own device, as flowers, birds, beasts, or whatever they chiefly delighted in, as a dog, a hare, &c.; and nothing was more common than an invention or rebus for their names, as a swan and a tun for *Swanton*; a hare for *Hare*, &c.; and because very few of the commonalty could write (all learning at that time being among the religious only) the person's name was usually circumscribed on his seal, so that at once they set both their name and seal, which was so sacred a thing in those days that one man never used another's seal without its being particularly taken notice of in the instrument sealed; and for this reason, all persons carried their seal about them, either on their rings, or on a roundel, fastened sometimes to their purse; sometimes to their girdle; nay, oftentimes when a man's seal was not much known, he procured some one in public office to affix his for the greater confirmation. Thus Hugh de Scalers (or Scales) a younger son of the Lord Scales, a family parson of Harlton, in Cambridgeshire, upon his agreeing to pay the prior of Bernewell 30*s.* for the two-third parts of the tithe corn due to the said prior, out of the several lands in his parish, because his seal was known to few, procured the archdeacon's official to put his seal of office for more ample confirmation; and when this was not done, nothing was more common than for a public notary to affix his mark, which being registered at his admission into office, it was of as public

a nature as any seal could be, and of great sanction to any instrument, those officers being always sworn to the true execution of their office, and to affix no other mark than that they had registered to any instrument, so their testimony could be as well known by their mark as by their name, for which reason they were called *public notaries*; *nota*, in Latin, signifying a mark, and *public*, because their mark was publicly registered. The few of these officers among us now only add N. P. for *notary public*. Thus, also, the use of seals is now laid aside, I mean the true use of them, as the distinguishing mark of one family for another, and of one branch from another."

Of the use of marks, this writer observes, "they were found so beneficial, that at the time alluded to all merchants of any note had their peculiar marks, with which they marked all their wares, and bare them in shields impaled with, or instead of arms; witness the abundance of merchant marks to be found on the houses, windows, and grave-stones, in all cities and great towns, as Norwich, Lynn, &c. by which the memory of their owners is still preserved; it being very obvious to all who search into the records of those places to find who used such a mark; and then if we see it on a house we may conclude it to have been that man's dwelling; if on a disrobed grave-stone, that it was his grave; if on a church window, or any other public building, that he was a benefactor thereto; and nothing is of greater use than ancient deeds to make out their marks by, for they always sealed with them."

About half a mile from Shimpling is THELVERTON. The church is small, consisting of a nave, a chancel, and south porch. The steeple is square, and has two bells. On the front are four shields; on the first the emblem of the Trinity; on the second three cups; on each a wafer, as an emblem of the sacrament; on the

third a plain cross ; on the fourth a cross floree, the supposed arms of the donor. Here is *Thelverton Hall*, the seat of Thomas Havers, esq.

At a small distance is FRENSE. This obscure village is upon a manor, which, in the Conqueror's time, was held by Robert Malet, Lord of Eye. The church, Blomefield observed, is a small building of equal height, covered with tile, and having no steeple : the bell hangs on the outside of the roof, at the west end. There is no partition between the church and chancel ; but there is a beam fixed across the east chancel window, on which the rood was conveniently placed. From the will of Ralph Bleverhasset, who desired to be buried in the chancel of the church of St. Andrew at Frenze, it appears that it was dedicated to that saint. The meanness of the fabric, it has been observed, was the cause of the preservation of the inscriptions, &c. as at a distance it looks like a barn. Ralph Bleverhasset was buried here in the year 1475, as were several of the family afterwards. On a stone by the south door are the effigies of a woman " bidding her beads," with three shields under the inscription. Here are also the effigies of Sir Thomas Bleverhasset, knt. who died in the 33d of Henry VIII. He is represented in complete armour, having a surcoat of his arms, with his quarterings. Under his head lies his crest, a fox *passant*. Many of the arms still remain in the windows.

John Bleverhasset, who died in 1704, was the last branch of this family ; and at Caistor, near Yarmouth, Mr. Blomefield saw an ancient canvas, surrounding two rooms, painted with the matches of the Bleverhassets, their names under each coat ; though several of them, in consequence of hanging against moist walls, were obliterated.

About a mile from Thelverton we arrive at Diss. This famous old town gives name to the hundred, but

derives its own from the large *mere*, or water on the south side. *Dice* in the Saxon language, according to Blomefield, signifies a standing water, lake, or ditch. *Dice*, now Diss, in the time of the Confessor, extended into Suffolk, and in the Conqueror's time, the town was found to be a whole league long, by which extent we are always to understand two miles. Diss is the chief town of the hundred, and is pleasantly situated near the Waveney, which divides the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. The streets are wide and clean: the town has been recently new paved, and altogether presents a neat and respectable appearance, having several good houses. The town at present contains between 300 and 400 houses. The inhabitants have been returned at 2590, and the market is held on Fridays. The water of the meer, at the west end, is too impure for domestic use, but it produces good eels and some other fish. The church is a regular building, consisting of a chancel, a nave, and two aisles, with a square tower at the west end, and is remarkable for its clerestory tier of windows, disposed in pairs, five of which are on each side of the nave, having a plain pilaster between every pair. The heads of the windows are rather of an unique kind, but the arch is formed of a waving line. The door of the south porch has a semi-circular arch, and over it a window formed of seven arched lights. This building was erected by the family of the Fitzwalters, lords of the place, belonging to whom was Robert Fitzwalter, who so eminently distinguished himself in the reign of King John. That monarch, because he could not obtain the knight's consent to gratify an illicit passion which he entertained for his daughter Matilda, surnamed the *Fair*, banished the father, and is said to have caused the daughter to be poisoned in the year 1213. This was one cause of the dire disasters which afterwards befel the kingdom during the wars between

this monarch and the barons. In an upper north window of the nave is a man in a blue robe and a red mantle, kneeling on a cushion, bidding his beads, and saying,

“Jesu Christe Dei miserere mei.”

Opposite, in the same window, is a woman in the same position, saying,

“Mater Sancta Dei ora pro .”

It is remarkable that though these prominent examples of the tenets of popery have been suffered to remain, all the stones in the church are robbed of their brasses; on one of them, in the chancel, there was, till lately, the impression of a chalice and wafer, denoting the burial-place of a priest.

Here was also a free chapel, dedicated to St. Nicholas, the bishop, built about the time of Henry V. by the brethren and sisters of St. Nicholas and of Corpus Christi gilds, then consolidated. The gild hall was common to both societies, and was the same building, granted to the inhabitants, and afterwards used for the charity school house. “It was well furnished for the merry meetings of the brethren and sisters of those gilds, for in 1575 here were kept the standard scales and weights for the market; and then there was left to the use of the town, in that house, one caldron, one brass pot, five spits, two bowls, one ladle, two trevets, 20 salts, four platters, 46 mease of plates, 40 ditto of dishes, 40 ditto of trenchers, 9 dozen of spoons, four cups, six table cloths, &c.; by which we may conjecture what jolly doings there had been formerly. This in the second year of Edward VI. suffered the fate of all other free chapels, being then dissolved.”

Among other distinguished characters, natives of Diss, are Ralph de Diceto, dean of St. Paul's in the time of Henry II., Walter of Diss, a Carmelite friar of

Norwich, and afterwards confessor to John, Duke of Lancaster and Aquitain, King of Leon and Castile, and also to Constance his queen. The facetious John Skelton, the poet laureat in the reign of Henry VIII. was rector of Diss, and resided here between the years 1503 and 1512. By Erasmus he was styled "the light and ornament of English scholars." Wood tells us "the generality saw that his witty discourses were biting, his laughter opprobrious and scornful, and his jokes commonly sharp and reflecting." Being too much addicted to satire, it is certain he created three such enemies as ruined him, both in reputation, liberty, and estate, William Lily, the Dominican friars, and Cardinal Wolsey. At the instigation of the friars he was called to account by Richard Nix, then Bishop of Norwich, for keeping a concubine, though he confessed he had ever looked upon her as his wife, "but did not declare it, because fornication in the clergy was thought a *little* sin, and marriage a *great* one." Skelton was not only suspended from his benefice, but prosecuted to such a degree by his bishop, that he was forced to take sanctuary in Westminster abbey, where he was protected by Abbot Islip, till he died, on the 21st of June, 1529, and was buried in the chancel of St. Margaret's, Westminster, under a stone inscribed,

"Johannes Skeltonus, Vates Pierius, hic situs est."

A plan is now in contemplation to connect this town with the port of Yarmouth, by making the river navigable from Diss to Bungay.

The capital manor-house of Diss Hall is situated at Heywode Green. From Diss there is a good road through Shelfhanger to Winfarthing.

SHELFHANGER. This is on the road leading from Diss to Winfarthing, and the church stands near it. The arms of several eminent families decorate different parts of this edifice. Before the altar rails are three

large stones, despoiled of their arms and inscriptions : under the first lies Henry, son of Sir Henry Noon, who died in 1487 ; under the next, Eleanor, his wife. The arms of Vicedelieu were on a stone in the chancel, but are no longer to be seen. This *Vise de Lou*, or Wolf's-face, for such is the import of the name, lived in the time of William the Norman, and probably assisted him in devouring the country ; he had lands also in Berkshire, but in Shelfhanger, this family after seven descents were succeeded by the Noons.

WINFARTHING. This is one of those places that have been rendered memorable by the superstition of the times of ignorance. Among the many great names who were formerly possessors of the soil, we read of Sir William Munchensy, who obtained several privileges for the place from Henry III. in consideration of his military services against the French ; for instance, the tenants are excused from serving as jurors at any sessions or assizes without the manor, and are exempt from tolls in markets, fairs, &c. upon condition of renewing their writ of franchise at the commencement of every king's reign. The son and heir of this Sir William Munchensy possessed in this parish a large park well stocked with deer, and had liberty to keep dogs for hunting the hare, fox, and wild cat, in his wastes and forests. So late as 1604, the deer appear to have been very plentiful, as Sir Basingham Gawdy, of West Harling, had annually a fee doe and buck, with the liberty of hunting them in Winfarthing Great Park, then the property of the Earl of Arundel. But though it is written that those *who take the sword shall perish by the sword*, the priests of Winfarthing long contrived to *live by it*. Here what was called *the good sword of Winfarthing* is alluded to. This was counted so precious a relique, and of so great a virtue, that there was a solemn pilgrimage made to it, with large gifts and offerings, vow-makings, crouchings and kiss-

ings. This sword was visited especially for things that were lost, and horses that had either been stolen or had strayed. It helped also to the shortening of a married man's life, if the wife who was weary of her husband would set a candle before that sword every Sunday for the space of a whole year, no Sunday excepted. Bacon, in his *Reliques of Rome*, printed in the year 1563, says, "I have many times heard when I was a child, of many ancient men and women, that this sword belonged to a certain thief that took sanctuary in that churchyard, and afterwards through the negligence of the watchmen escaped, and left his sword behind him, which being found and laid up in a certain old chest, was afterwards, through the subtlety of the parson and clerk, made a precious relique, full of virtue," &c.

ROYDON, joining Diss on the east, is remarkable only for its old church, though the nave is all that is left standing. The chancel was supposed to have been built by one of the Fitz Walters, about Henry I.'s time. A stone coffin, standing in the churchyard after it had been taken from under an arch in the north wall, was thought to have been his. The chancel contained a number of stones with inscriptions.

About half a mile to the right we come to BRISSINGHAM, a little to the west of Diss: that town, about the year 963, was given by Osulph le Sire, and the Lady Laverine or Leofrine, his wife, to the abbey of St. Edmund's Bury. In 1268, Walter of Brissingham sold to Richard de Boyland one messuage and a carucate of land in demesne, in Brissingham, Roydon, and Shelfhanger, with all their homages, services of freemen, villeins, reliefs, &c. and 80 acres of land. This Sir Richard was a very great man in Edward III.'s time, being justice itinerant in this county, and the owner of many lordships and estates. Being one of the commissioners for the government of the kingdom

in the absence of Edward I. he was at the king's return found guilty of manifest corruption in the administration of justice, and fined 4000 marks for his intolerable extortions. After this he retired to this part of the county, and built a noble seat surrounded with a large moat, which he continued round the orchards, park, and all his lands, the remains of which were visible in 1736. "His greatest work was that subterraneous vault or arch, now remaining, commonly called the conduit, which was made with a double design, both for bathing, and a continual supply of water to these moats. This is situated about half a furlong south-west from the house, and is very remarkable, being arched over very strongly, ceiled very smooth, and paved at the bottom; the mouth of it is about three feet wide, but when you enter beyond the rubbish which is thrown in, a man may fairly walk upright. It runs in a straight line about 30 or 40 rods in length, and near the further end is a large well, exceeding deep, beyond which there is a wall, and there the straight line ends. This well continually overflows, so that the water runs about a foot deep the whole length of the vault, occasioned by the outlet being almost stopped up with rubbish. When you have entered this vault about four rods, there are two mouths of other arches, one on the right and the other on the left, from which the water continually flows into the great arch, so that three currents have only one discharge. Right over the well, in the close, is a hill, probably raised to determine the place where the well is. When the water runs out it comes directly into a square bath, over which there was lately a bathing-house, of brick, with a summer-house joined to it, the ruins of which still (1736) remain. Out of this the water runs into such another square bath, which was designed as a common one, it being never covered; from this is a small conveyance which seems

to have been arched over formerly; this leads directly to the moat that surrounded the orchard." Whether this water had been remarkable for any medicinal virtue could not be ascertained; it is, however, very cold, and never freezes in the severest weather. People that have been to see this place have pulled down most of the ruins to throw into the vault, merely for the gratification of hearing the sound, which is very considerable and of long continuance. The meadow is called the Conduit Meadow.

The present church of Brissingham was begun by Sir Roger Pilkington, knt. lord of the manor; his arms are cut in stone over the west door of the tower: this edifice was, however, not completed till 1527, some time after the donor's death. According to tradition, his tomb and that of his lady, a fair raised monument, once adorned with two handsome portraitures and scutcheons of brass, with the inscriptions, were all demolished. The chancel not having been rebuilt with the church, is much more ancient. The building on the whole is very neat and uniform, and consists of a nave, two aisles, and a south porch. The gilds or associations that were kept in this church previous to the reformation seem to have possessed considerable property, principally increased by the shameful sale of indulgences, extended to the most ridiculous extremes of duration.

Boyland Hall stands on the west side of Boyland Green. Blomefield mentions a singular character, an inhabitant of Brissingham parish, a Mr. Harrison, a curious collector of Roman coins of gold, silver, and copper, from Pompey the Great to Honorius and Arcadius. His house was adorned in a very odd manner. In the parlour stood the effigies of a man, which had a speaking trumpet put through the wall into the yard, fixed to his mouth, so that upon one's entering the

room, it used to bid him welcome by a servant's speaking into the trumpet in the yard. Some curious Latin inscriptions were also inlaid in the parlour door, and in another upon the staircase.

From Brissingham we proceed to FERSFIELD. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew; his effigies were painted on the wall over the north door, but have long since been whitened. The church is small, but contains several monumental inscriptions: some of the figures, examined by Mr. Blomefield, exhibit so much of the manner formerly used in constructing these frail memorials of mortality, that they ought not to be passed over. Under an arch in the north wall lies an effigy of a priest in his habit, carved in stone, having had four priests kneeling in their surplices by him, two on each side. Beginning to decay, this was taken out of its place, and the whiting carefully scraped off. The large stone, upon which the effigy lay, was then found to have been green, representing the earth: his head rested on a pillow, and that on a cushion, both which were red; the cushion being flowered with silver, and the pillow with gold. His feet rested on a buck couchant, ermine, the crest of the Boises; his gown was black, his cassock red, gilt all over in imitation of embroidery, and powdered all over with ermine; round his waist was a green girdle, buckled with a black buckle upon his breast: from the neck to the girdle was the complete arms of the Boises, as they appear in two of the chancel windows. The inscription is totally illegible, but from his crest it is plain he was a Bois, and from his habit a priest. Mr. Blomefield on removing the effigies found they were joined in the middle, and being hollow, were filled with burnt coals for the purpose of absorbing the moisture and keeping the stone dry, with the view of preserving its colours. He had it raised above a foot high from

the ground, and painted in its original manner, causing this inscription to be put on a plate and fixed to the wall.

“ William du Bois, priest, founder of this chancel, patron and rector of this church, and of Garboldisham All Saints, vicar of Great Conerth in Suffolk, third son of Robert du Bois, knt. and brother to that Sir Robert who lies buried in the south aisle. He died about 1352.”

The effigies of another knight armed cap a pie, cut out of one piece of oak, being at the same time found in a dirty condition, Mr. Blomefield had it taken out and washed very clean, when upon removing it, he found it hollowed and filled like the former with burnt coals. The plank on which it lay was painted green, with flowers, grass, and leaves. The figure was exactly six feet in length, and proportionable in all its parts: a sword hung in a belt by its side. Under the head was a board, which when first taken up had the arms of Bois and Latimer very perfect; but the colours being exposed to the air scaled off in two or three days, for which reason they were repainted on the pillow under his head. His helmet and gauntlets were powdered with ermine, as was every other folding of his military cassock which hung down lower than his armour, this being the field of his own coat; the other foldings were the field of his wife's. His feet rest on a buck couchant, arg. spotted with ermine, being his crest. His armour was mail, gilt all over with gold, and on his breast-plate was his perfect coat, erm. a cross, sab. His head lies on a pillow painted red, and flowered with silver, lying on a cushion painted to resemble green velvet flowered with gold, with which his spurs are covered. Several embellishments were gilded on a cement, and let into the wood in different places on his belt, sword, and spurs, and on the edge of the plank on which he lay. These had been covered

with glass, but were defaced; those that remained were a man's head cooped up at the neck with leaves in his mouth; a spread eagle; a dog meeting a hare; a dog fighting a lion; a bull tossing a dog; and a lion couchant, with an eagle standing on him picking out his eyes. Here was also a representation of a building with arches, under which were two hands joined, holding up a book, to signify, as Mr. Blomefield supposed, the founding of this aisle by the deceased; and this he likewise caused to be repainted, as nearly as possible, in the same colours as before.

Tanns Well, about sixty yards from the north gate of the churchyard, is a corruption of St. Anne's Well, a place to which processions were usually made from the church, and here a separate chaplain had served from its foundation to the year 1411, when it was united with the church.

During the *interregnum* this church was purged of superstition by the puritans, who defaced the carvings on the heads of the seats with their swords, hacked the effigies of the Boises, took away the few crosses that remained, and several arms out of the windows, pulling down the altar rails, &c. The evidences and the king's arms had been previously secured by Mr. Piddock, the churchwarden, who justly replaced them at the restoration of Charles II.

Returning to the direct road, the place we now arrive at is

OSMONDESTON, or *Scole*, which joins to the east of Diss, and has the Waveney on the south. What is called the *Scole Inn*, or *White Hart*, here, is a large brick building, and was adorned with imagery as large as life, and carved work in several places. It was built in 1655 by John Peck, esq. whose arms impaling his wife's are over the porch door. The sign was very large, and contained an assemblage of images 25 in

number, carved in wood, the work of one Fairchild. Here was once a very large round bed, sufficient to contain 15 or 20 couple, supposed to have been an imitation of the great bed at Ware.

Osmondeston, centrally situated between Norwich, Yarmouth, Bury, and Ipswich, is the last place named in our excursion; but to notice some villages, &c. in this part of the county, we shall proceed along the borders of Suffolk, and return to Norwich, observing all the places south of the river *Yare*.

BILLINGFORD. The name of this place is derived from its proximity to a ford and the low meadows; and it once belonged to Sir Simon Burley, knt. banneret, the great favourite of the Black Prince.

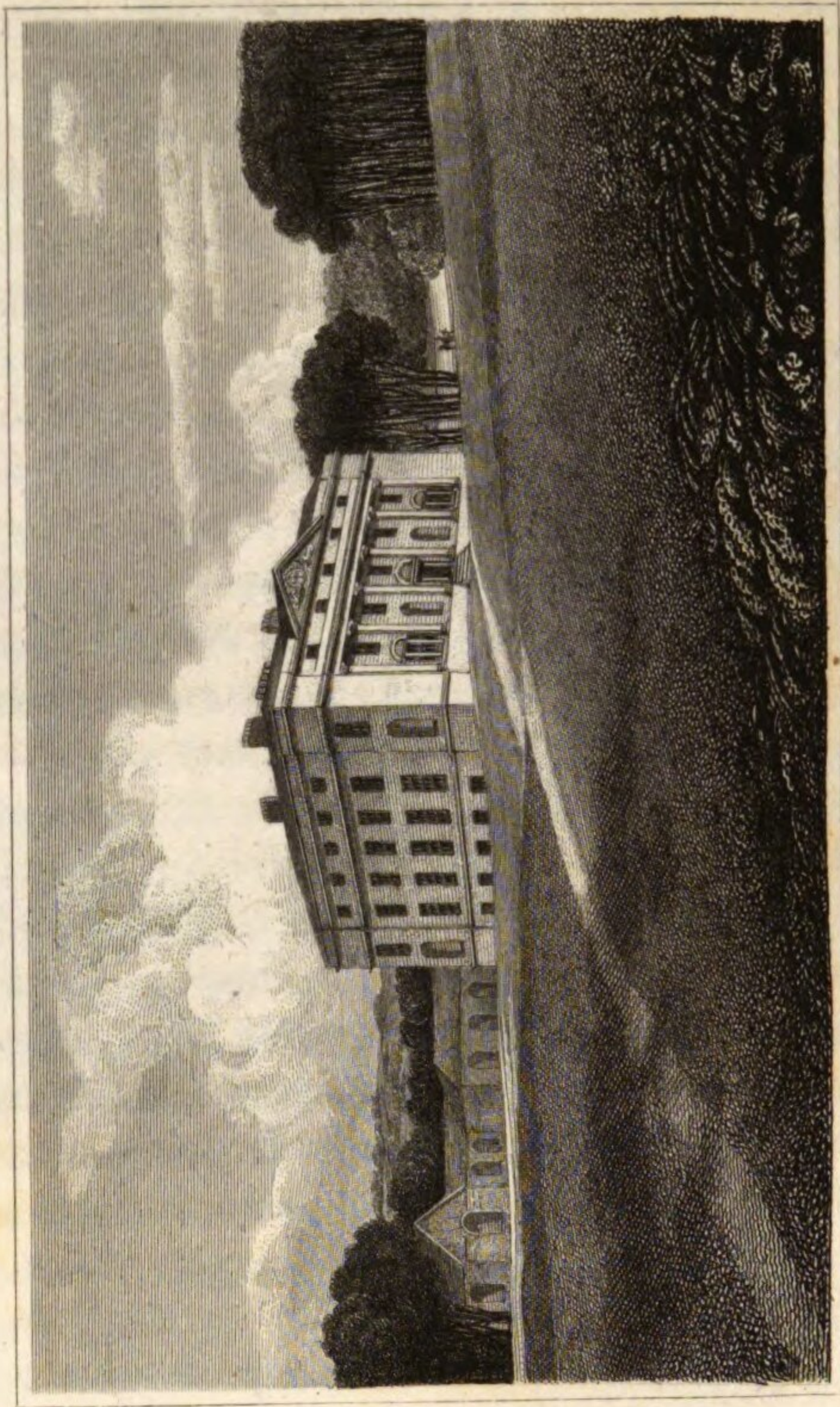
Thorp Abbots was so called to distinguish it from other villages of this name, having for many ages been part of the possessions of the Abbot of Bury. One mile from this village is *Hoxne Hall*, the seat of Sir Thomas Maynard Heselrigge, bart.

BROCKDISH is the next adjoining town eastward, through which runs the great road to Yarmouth. Here the river Waveney is said to receive the appearance of a broad ditch, of which the name of the place is a corruption. The roof of the church is formed of several crooked or bended limbs of trees adapted to the shape of the tiling. The late Rev. Francis Blomefield, the indefatigable historian of the county, was presented to this rectory by Mrs. Ellen Lawrence, widow, of Castle Acre. The parish register contains some curious entries illustrative of the manners and customs of the country before the reformation. *Brockdish Hall* was once the residence of the family who derived their name from the village. After the estate came to the Lawrences, one of them built the present hall in 1634. It stands about half a mile north-east of the church, near the site of the old one. Frances, one of the children of a family here, went into a garret in a remote

part of the house, when the door shutting upon her she was starved to death!

NEEDHAM, or *Nedham*, is to the east of Brockdish, on the great road, and was originally a hamlet and chapelry to Mendham. The priory of Mendham, situated near the Waveney, was founded in King Stephen's time by William, the son of Roger de Huntingfield. Mendham church is a good building, with a square tower and five bells. *Middleton Hall* in this town has been reckoned a fine old seat. Another ancient seat here is called Oaken Hill, in which the family of the Batemans resided ever since the time of William Bateman, Bishop of Norwich.

HARLESTON is supposed to have been a corruption from Herolfston, from Herolf, one of the Danish leaders that settled in this part of the country. Sir John Herolveston is frequently mentioned in our chronicles for his martial exploits. From him the Harlestons of Norfolk and Suffolk have descended. Here is a weekly market and two annual fairs well frequented, particularly that holden on the vigil and day of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, at which immense droves of Scotch cattle are sold. A part of this town, called the Middle Row, stands in Harleston, the rest being in the parish of Redenhall. The church, and a north chapel belonging to *Gawdy Hall*, contain many monumental stones, but without brasses, this being the burial-place of the families proprietors of the manor. The large mansion called *Gawdy Hall*, was built by Thomas Gawdy, esq. about the latter end of the sixteenth century. The arms of the Gawdys, richly emblazoned with stained glass, which used to appear in the windows, have been removed to a window erected for the purpose in the chapel, or dormitory, in the church of Redenhall. About a century previous to 1778 the hall, manors, and estates devolved by purchase to the *Wogans*, a Pembrokehire family; but at this period



Engraved by J. Roberts from a Drawing by J. S. Geman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

SHOTTISHAM PARK,

The Seat of R. Fellowes Esq^r

NORFOLK.

Pub^d March 25. 1815. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

the elder branch became extinct by the death of John Wogan, esq. A handsome monument is erected to his memory and that of his widow in the dormitory of Redenhall church: she died in 1788. From this family the hall became by purchase the property of the Reverend Gervase Holmes, of Ipswich, and is at present the seat of Mrs. Holmes.

REDENHALL takes its name from *Rada*, the Dane, who was lord in the time of Edward the Confessor. The manor of Holebrook, or Gawdy Hall, took its name from the situation of the manor-house being in a hole by the brook side; the adjacent hills still retain the name of Holebrook Hills, and are on the left of the road leading from Harleston to Yarmouth, near to Wortwell Dove. This house was pulled down by the Gawdies when Gawdy Hall was erected.

Redenhall church, dedicated to St. Mary, stands upon an eminence, and is a beautiful specimen of the florid gothic: it has a peal of bells. On the west doors are carved a hammer and a horseshoe, and a shoe with pincers, as rebusses for the names of *Smith* and *Hammersmith*, probably the donors of them. The arms of Brotherton and Mowbray, with a leopard's face, the badge of De la Pole, are cut on many of the stones. This church was rebuilt of freestone by Thomas Brotherton, Earl of Norfolk, and the chancel by William Newport, rector; but the noble square tower, which is very large and lofty, is of much later foundation. The battlements are neat, and it has four freestone spires on its top, and is the finest tower of any country parish church in the whole county. It was begun in 1460. The spire was demolished in 1680, and rebuilt in the course of the following year.

WORTWELL MANOR soon after the Conquest was in the possession of a family called *Peccatum*, or *Peeche*. The family of the Carliols lived in the manor-house

for several descents. *Wortwell Hall* continued in the family of the Hollands nearly two centuries.

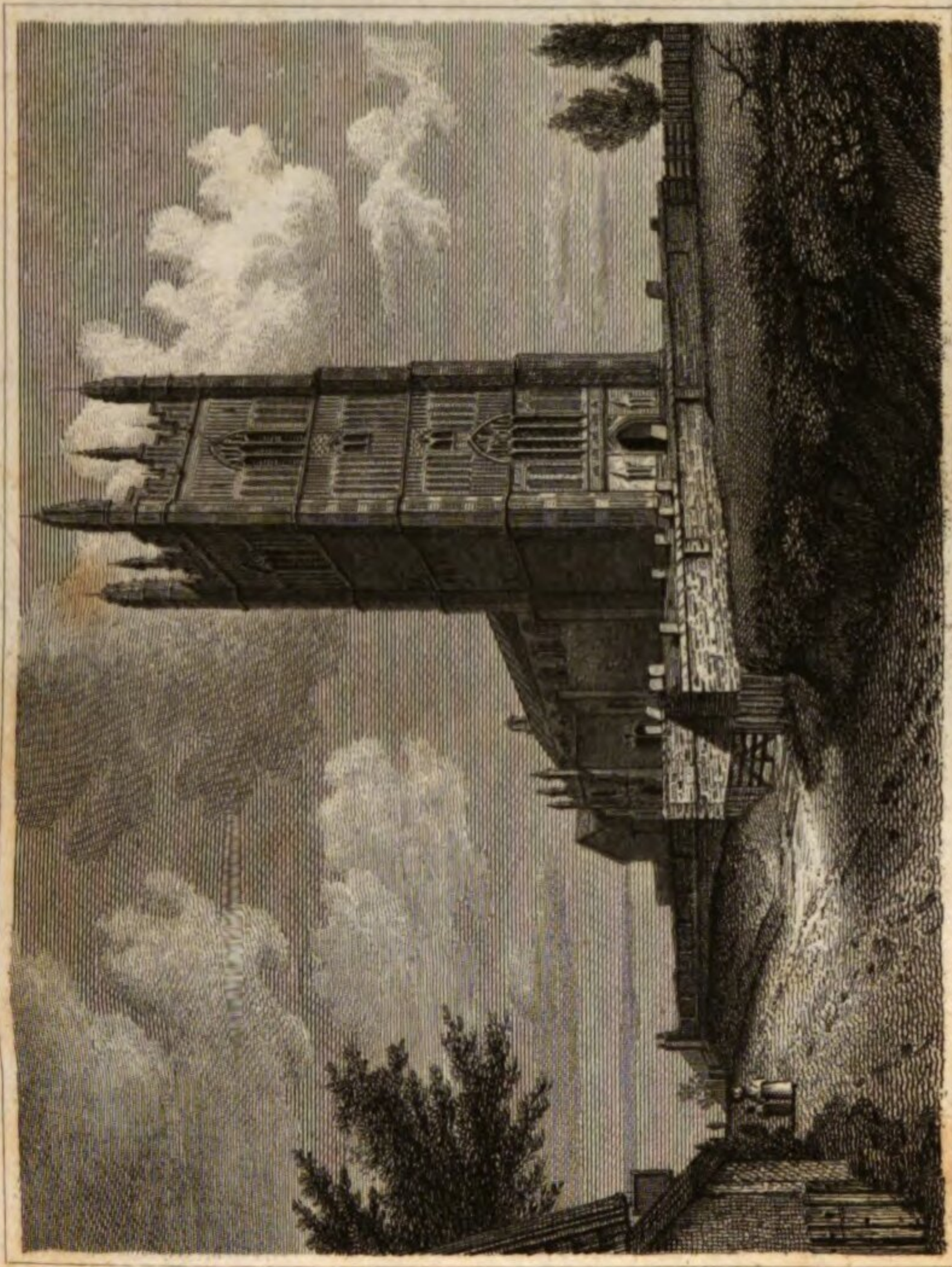
ALBURY, commonly called Arborough, is a village, and at present contains nothing remarkable.

DENTON takes its name from the Saxon word *den*, a cave, or hollow, between two hills, which exactly answers the present situation of this place. The church stands on a high hill, and the parsonage-house on the north side of the churchyard in the den, or hollow, from which the town derives its name. Blomefield says, "the east chancel window is all of painted glass, the most perfect and curious I have seen in any country village." It contains the arms of Howard, Brotherton, and Mowbray quartered. A mile and a half from Denton is *Flixton Hall*, the venerable seat of Alex. Adair, esq.

EARSHAM is situated on the turnpike-road from Bungay to Harleston, near the marshes; and here is *Earsham Hall*, built about the beginning of last century by John Buxton, esq. This is a spacious and handsome square mansion, situated in a pleasant park. It was purchased of the Buxton family by Colonel William Wyndham, and is now the seat of Sir William Wyndham Dalling, bart.

The churchyard occupies the site of an ancient encampment, the ramparts being formed in an oval. A park near Earsham in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Edward I. was well stocked, and consisted of 286 acres of land in demesne, 16 acres of meadow, the hall dykes, or fishery, a water-mill, and divers woods and fens, all of which were kept for the use of Roger Bigod, who usually resided at his adjacent castle of Bungay in Suffolk.

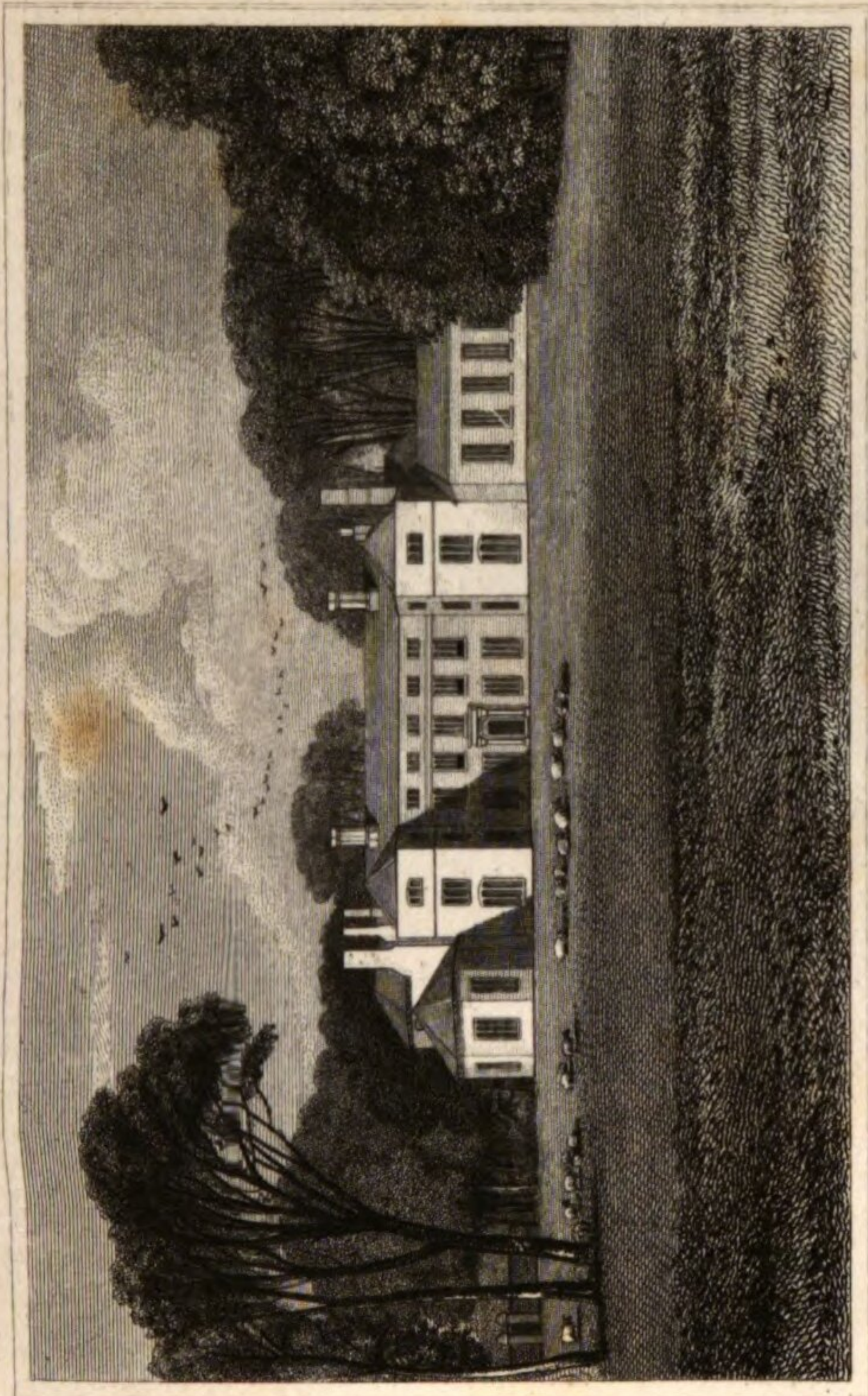
HEDINGHAM. Here is *Hedingham Hall*, late the seat of C. Garneys, esq. Brome Place is in this neighbourhood, the seat of Captain Beauchamp Proctor, and Brome Hall, that of Mrs. Fowles.



Engraved by W. Diddle from a sketch by T. Higham for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**BREIDENHALL CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

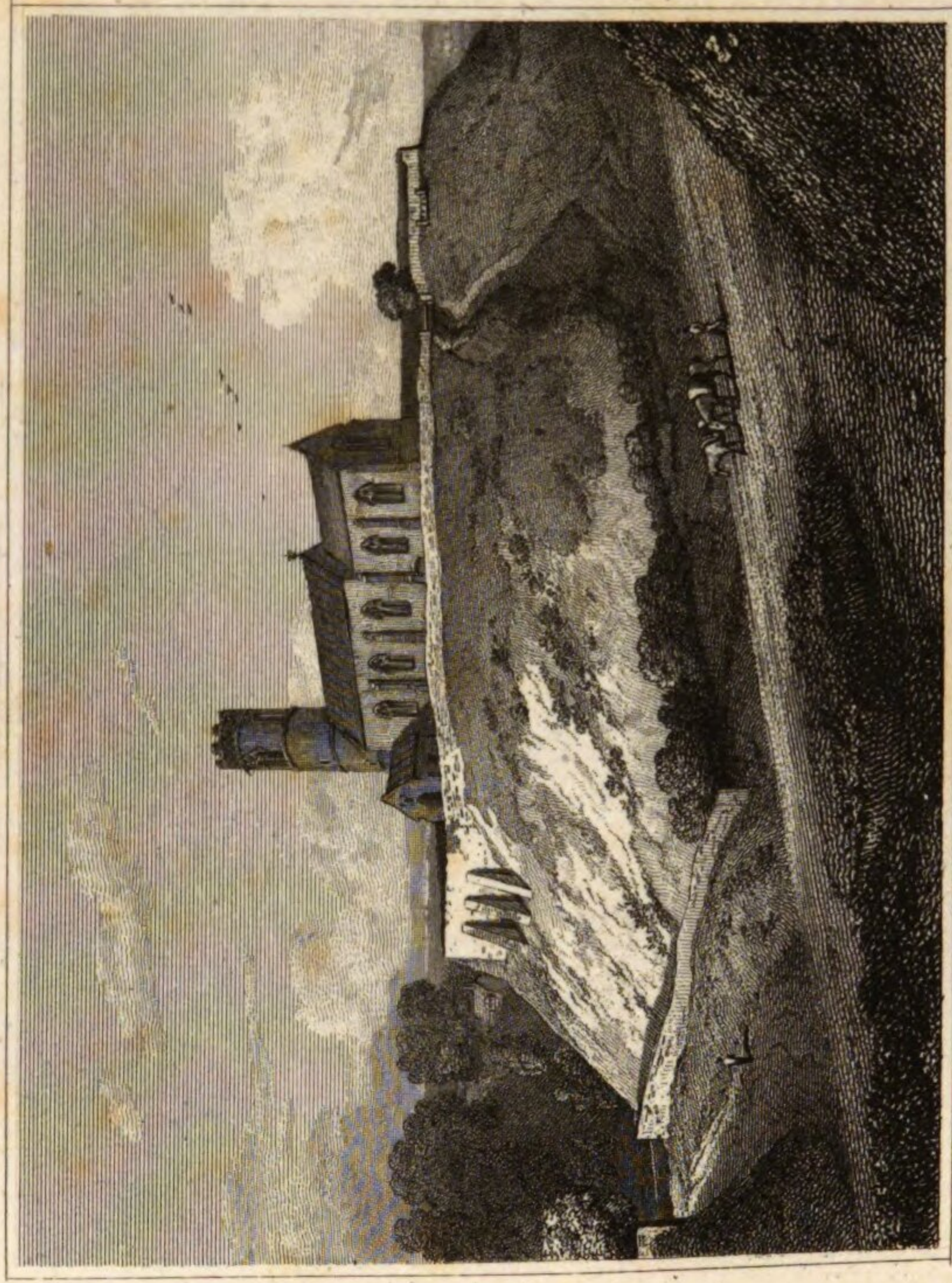
Pub. 4 May 1. 1839 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by LAOON, from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

EARLHAM HALL,
The Seat of J. J. Gurney Esq.
NORFOLK.

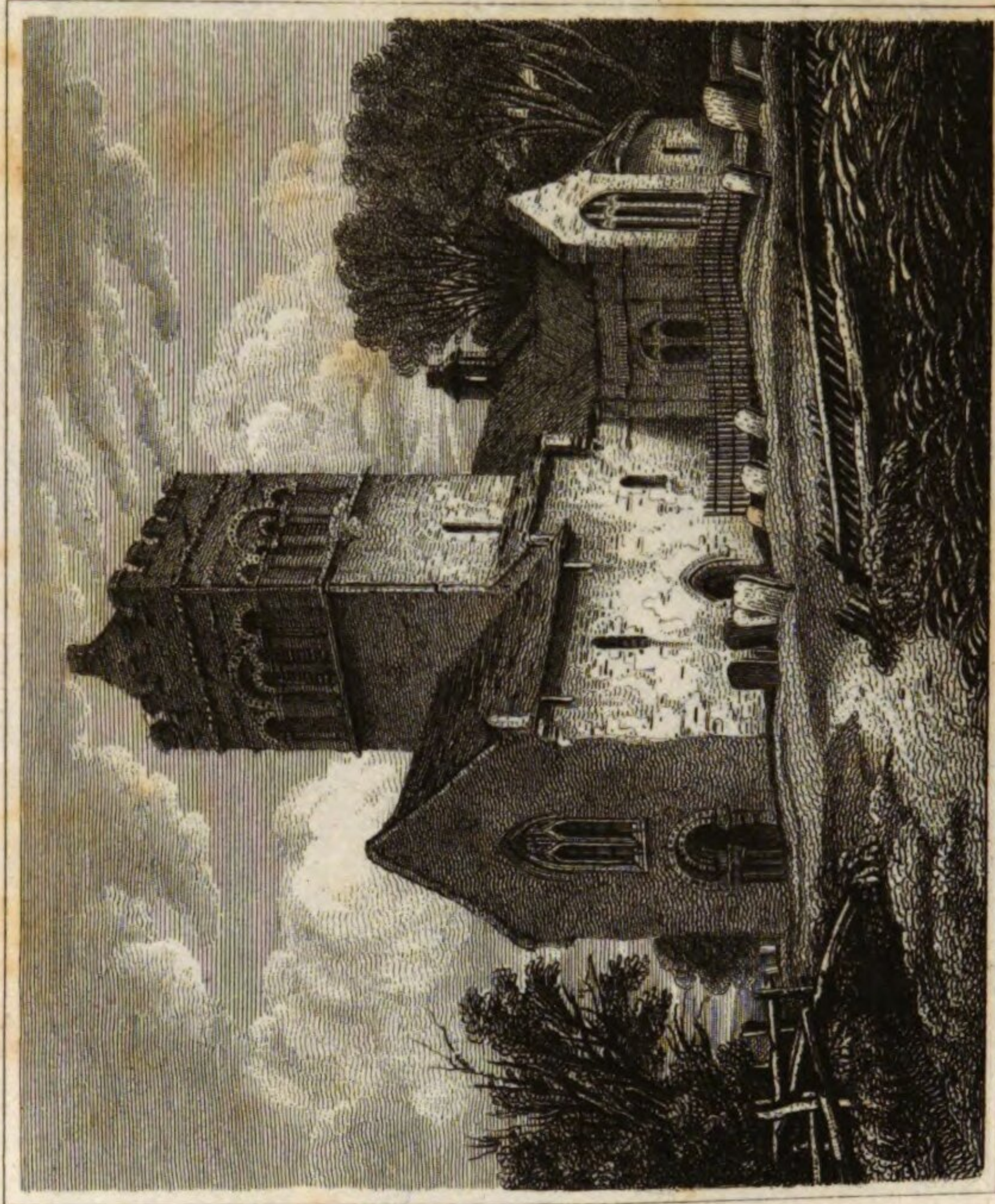
Pub. 4 March 1819, by Longman, & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by T. Higham from a Sketch by J. S. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

HADISCOE CHURCH, NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 Dec. 1. 1814. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by E. Roberts, from a Drawing by J. S. Colman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**GILLINGHAM, CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub. March 21st 1818, by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.

DITCHINGHAM. Ditchingham Hall is the seat of John Bedingfield, esq.

BEDINGHAM. Here is the seat of Robert Stone, esq.

WOOTON, or Woodtown. Here is Wooton Hall, the seat of — Suckling, esq.

THWAITE. The entrance to the church here on the south side is through a fine semicircular arch, consisting of six different mouldings of various kinds. Over the centre is a rudely sculptured head, and on each side of the doorway two columns with figured capitals, between which the piers are ornamented with lozenges and other figures.

GILDERSTONE. Geldeston, or *Geldeston Hall*, is a handsome modern building on the banks of the Waveney, and is the seat of T. Kerrich, esq. In digging vaults for making cellars to this mansion was found a curious Roman bracelet of pure gold, which is in the possession of the family.

GILLENHAM had formerly two parish churches, St. Mary and All Saints, but the latter was taken down in 1748, and the two livings united. The ruined tower and the walls covered with ivy present an object truly picturesque. The ancient church of St. Mary is small, and has a semicircular east end, and a square tower rising from the centre, which is decorated near the top with a series of semicircular arches, each face having zigzag mouldings. A vast track of marsh land here, under an act passed in the 45th year of the present reign, has been converted into excellent grazing land. *Gillingham Hall* is the residence of Mrs. Bacon Schutz.

HADDESCOE is a populous village near the extremity of the hundred and county. The church stands on an eminence, having the marshes on the north-east, and a valley, here called a delve, on the south. The level of marshes between Haddescoe and the Waveney are

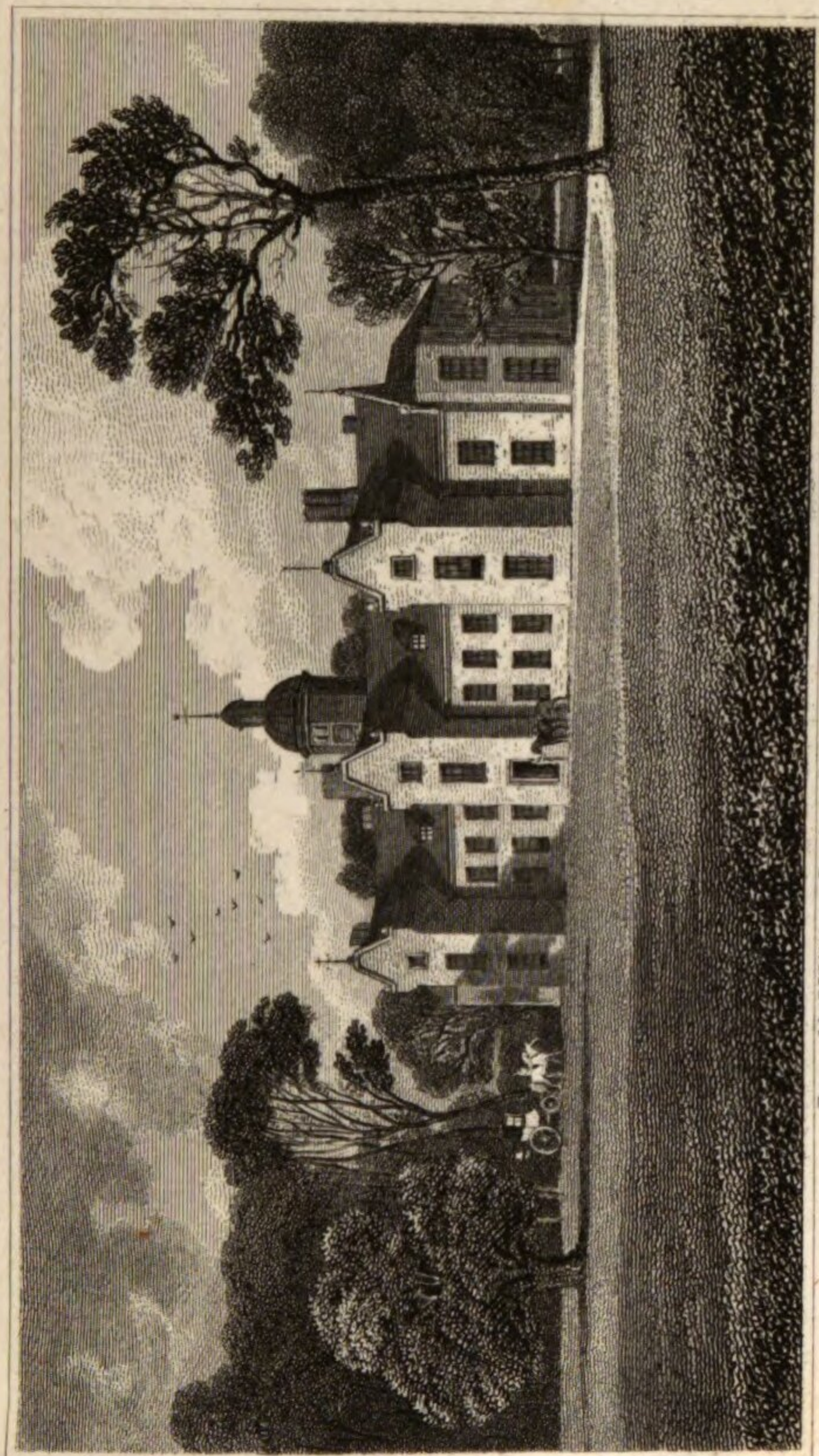
nearly two miles wide, and through them runs the turnpike-road from Beccles to Yarmouth. At the eastern extremity of this hundred is St. Olave's Bridge, built by Sir James Hobart, knt. Attorney General to Henry VII. who added a causeway to the boggy ground adjoining; but from a manuscript it appears that these improvements were made at the *expense* and *desire* of Dame Hobart, wife of the said Sir James. Dame Hobart's bridge being in decay, was taken down in 1770, and the present handsome structure of free-stone erected at the joint expense of the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Raveningham House was the seat of Sir Edmund Bacon, premier baronet of England. It now appears to be a modern handsome building.

HECKINGHAM. The church here has an ancient chancel turned round at the east end, and a round tower with two bells. Here is also a house of industry, the regulations of which have been highly approved.

LODDON. This town stands on the banks of a small stream, which rises near Howe, in Clavering, and falls into the Yare at Hardley Cross. The market is held weekly on Fridays, and it has two annual fairs.

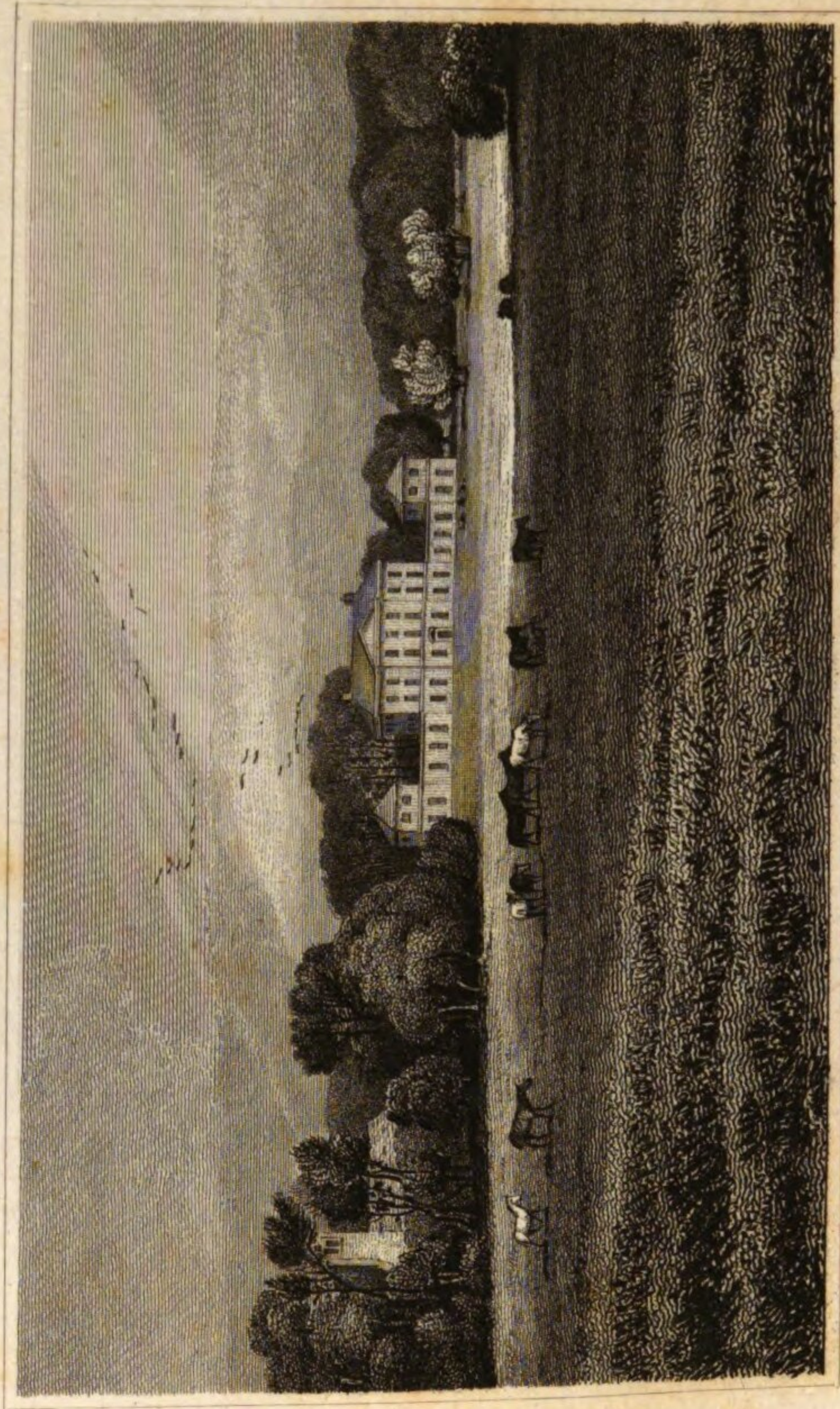
Loddon Hall, commonly called Hales Hall, in the time of King Henry VII. was occupied by Sir James Hobart, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. He was a great benefactor to the church and neighbourhood. The present handsome stone structure he erected at his own charge. In the chancel, on a marble altar tomb, are several brass plates, with the arms, and two mutilated stone figures, sacred to the memory of Henry Hobart, esq. and others of the family. A piece of stained glass taken out of the east window represents Sir James Hobart and his lady both kneeling, with the family arms emblazoned on his surcoat, and also on her mantle. The right side of



Engraved by T. Webb from a Drawing by J. S. Corman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

GILLINGHAM HALL,
The Seat of Mr. Schute.
NORFOLK.

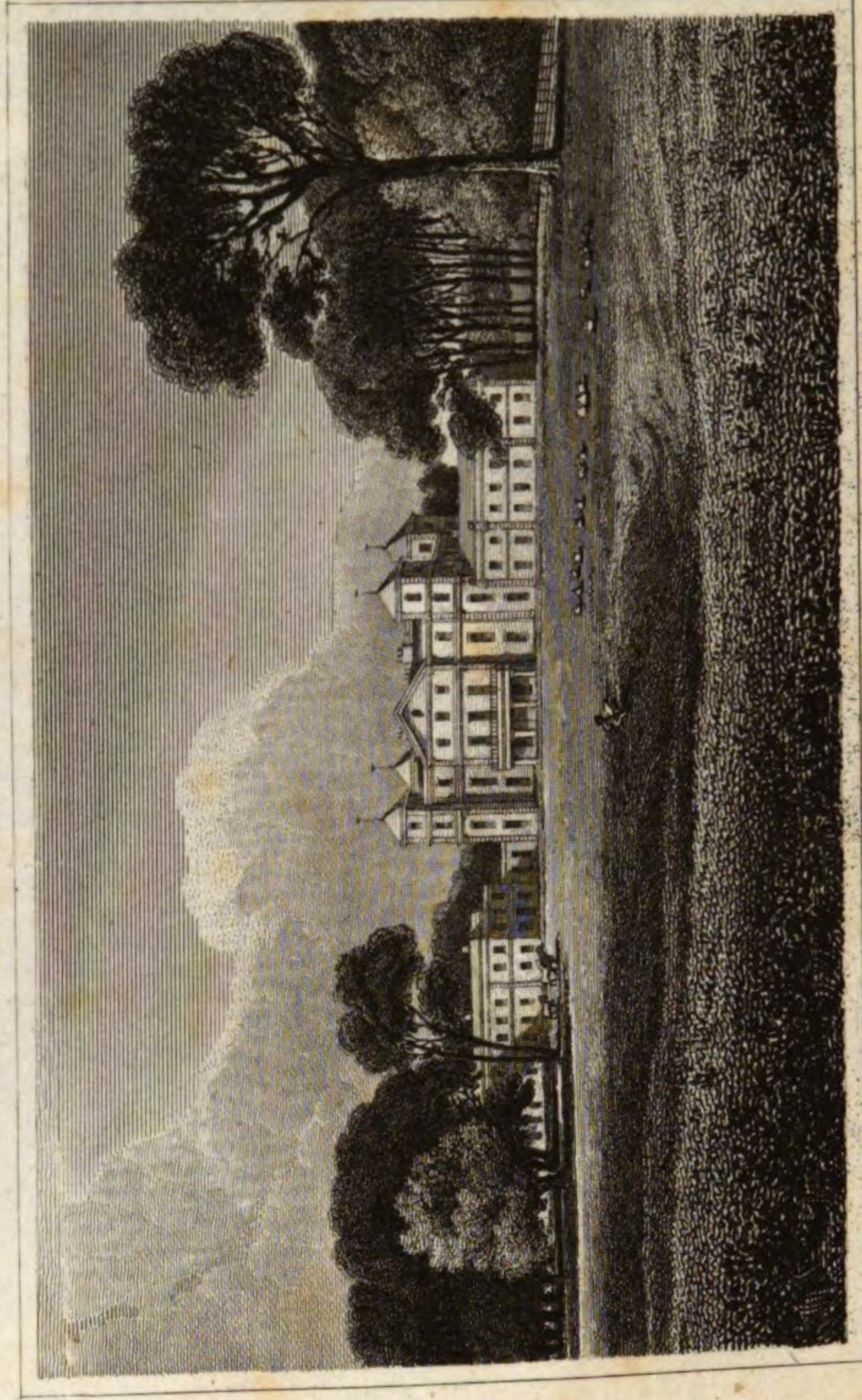
Pub. & Sup. 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by T. Barber, from a Drawing by J. S. Cooper, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

RAVENINGHAM HALL,
The Seat of Sir Edmund Bacon, Bart.
NORFOLK.

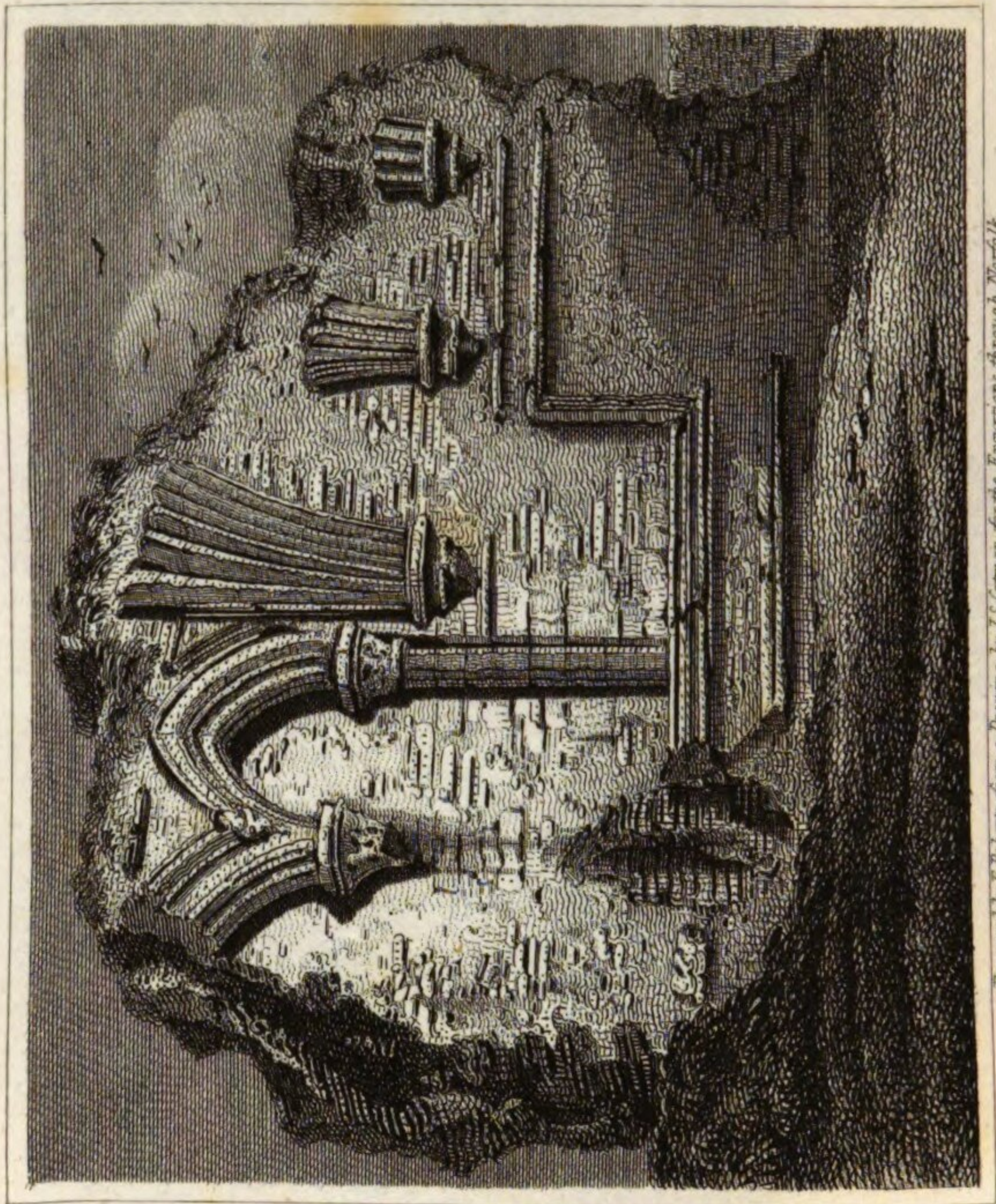
Pubd Nov. 1. 1838. by Longman, & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. H. Smith from a Drawing by J. S. G. for the Executors of Sir J. Langley.

LANGLEY HALL,
The Seat of Sir Tho^s Beauchamp Procter Bart^t
NORFOLK.

Pub. & Sold by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by L. Roberts, from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman, for the Excavations through Norfolk.

Part of
LANGLEY ABBEY,
NORFOLK.

Pub. April 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. C. Yarrall, from a Sketch, by T. Higham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

South Entrance
HILLINGTON CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d Apr. 1. 1848, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

this picture was embellished with a sketch of Loddon church, and the left with a view of St. Olave's bridge, and beneath a Latin inscription in black letter, expressing that he built the church at his own expense in the course of three years, during the reign of Henry VII., &c.

LANGLEY. Here is Langley House, the seat of Sir Thomas Beauchamp Proctor, bart. It is a very handsome structure, having four quadrangular turrets at each corner rising a story above the centre of the building, and two detached wings, with a park and extensive plantations. The former is well stocked with deer.

Langley Abbey, situated near this hall, was founded in the year 1198 by Robert Fitz Roger, for White Canons of the Premonstratensian order, and was so amply endowed that, according to Parkin, the bede roll included such a number of names that a considerable portion of the officiating minister's time must have been taken up to enumerate them. The site of this abbey is now called *The Grange*.

THURTON is an ancient village, but will not detain us by any thing it affords at present.

Rockland, formerly Rockland Abbots. In this churchyard there were once two churches; one of them, St. Margaret's, has long been in ruins; but though it consisted only of a chancel and a nave, it was as large as that of St. Mary now in use.

CLAXTON and CARLETON contain nothing remarkable in their history or their present state.

Hillington Park, the seat of Sir Martin Browne Folkes, has been considerably improved; and the gardens, with their forcing walls, pinneries, &c. are much admired. The south door of the church of Hillington is very fine; the north door, though small, is also highly ornamented.

SURLINGHAM. *Coldham Hall* here is commonly called

the *Woods End*: this was some time since a public-house. The ferry, called Surlingham Ferry, is a very great passage over the river.

BRAMERTON contains *Bramerton Hall*, a good house on the east side of Bramerton heath, built by the *Cories*, owners of estates here ever since 1403.

KIRBY BEDON, or *Kirkeby*, signifies the dwelling at the kirken, or churches; and Bidon, or Bedon, was added to distinguish it from another village of the same name in this county, it being the name of the ancient lords of the capital manor. The manor-house has been successively occupied by several respectable families. Kirby Hall is at present the residence of the Rev. George Wilson.

TROWSE AND NEWTON. *Trowse-Newton Hall* is an ancient building, erected by the priors of Norwich as their country seat. It had a chapel, and different offices. It continued as a place of retirement for the Deans of Norwich long after the dissolution, but afterwards being leased out was occupied by a farmer. That part of Trowse on the Norwich side of the river is called *Trowse Milgate*.

The village of *Whitlingham* contains nothing remarkable: the church has been long in ruins.

EXCURSION II.

FROM NORWICH TO YARMOUTH.

*Through Thorpe, Postwick, Blofield, Burlingham,
St. Andrew's, Acle, Weybridge, Burgh, St. Mar-
garet's, Filby, Caistor, to Yarmouth.*

IN commencing our present excursion, the first place we arrive at is THORPE. The scenery and situation of this charming village have been already noticed, when describing the vicinity of Norwich; it only remains therefore to observe that this is called *Thorpe near Norwich*, to distinguish it from the other Thorpes in the county.

In the reign of the Confessor this belonged to Stigand, who was lord in his own right; on his deprivation the Conqueror seized it, and it was granted to Ralph de Walet, Earl of Norfolk, but on his rebellion came again to the crown, in which it remained till King Henry I. granted it to the monks of the church of the Holy Trinity of Norwich. This grant affords a curious precedent of the solemn manner in which the conveyance of lands for religious uses was usually performed. The donation was made by the king for his own soul, the souls of his father and mother, of King William, his brother, of all his ancestors and successors, in the presence of Queen Maud, daughter of the King of Scotland, and the illustrious men, ecclesiastical and secular, by whom also it was witnessed. Thorpe, however, thus granted from the crown in 1101, again reverted to it in 1527, when Henry VIII., by the sweeping measure of the dissolution, not only disannulled this but almost every other act of his forefathers in favour of the church and monastic institutions.

On Mousehold Heath, about a mile to the north-east of the hamlet of Pockthorp, was a chapel dedicated to *St. Catherine*, said to have been an ancient parochial chapel about the time of the Conquest, and afterwards rededicated to the honour of William, commonly called *St. William in the Wood*, from a boy whom the monks reported had been crucified by the Jews at Norwich in 1137. A cell of monks belonging to Norwich priory being near this chapel, in those times of superstition it was much frequented by pilgrims, but demolished at the period of the dissolution.

Near to this was also the chapel of the Translation of *St. Thomas of Becket*, and that of *St. Michael*, which stood on the brow of the hill, on the north side of the road, just out of Bishops Gate, the ruins being still visible, and commonly called “*Kett the rebel’s castle*:” it was founded by Bishop Herbert. At the dissolution this cell came to the crown, and was granted by Henry VIII. to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk. His son, Henry, Earl of Surrey, built a sumptuous house on its site, and called it *Mount Surrey* and *Surrey House*. On his subsequent attainder it came to the crown. Queen Elizabeth, however, granted it to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, who having also forfeited it by his attainder, King James I. conferred it on Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk.

On the right of Thorpe is *Crown Point*, the seat of the late General Money.

At some distance on our left we observe

PLUMSTEAD MAGNA and PLUMSTEAD PARVA, containing nothing particularly worthy of notice.

POSTWICK lies on our road, at the distance of four miles from Norwich. In the 20th of Henry VI. Sir Hugh Halsham, who died possessed of it, was the brother of Richard Halsham, who had been a monk of the order of the Celestines at Paris, but quitted it and married.

Proceeding a mile farther, we arrive at

BRUNDALL. The ancient family of *Sancto Omero*, or Saint Omer, were lords of this village. In the reign of Henry VII. it came to the Hobarts, and continued with them for several generations. Here is nothing remarkable at present.

About half a mile from the road, on our left, lies

WITTON. Before the conquest, Ralph Statre had here four freemen, who held 60 acres of land, and 11 of meadow, &c. At the conquest it was seized on, and held for the king by Godric. In the seventh of Richard II. license was granted to Margaret, Countess of Norfolk, to alienate to the nuns minoresses of Brus-yerd, in Suffolk, the lordship of Witton, to pray for the soul of Anne, daughter of the said Margaret, deceased, late Countess of Pembroke, and for her own state whilst living, and her soul when deceased. John Dade of Witton, who by his will, dated in 1505, was buried in the church, orders "that the old rooffe be taken down, the walls helped, and a new roof to be made after the patern of *Little Plumstede*; and because I am not able to lede it, I will that it be ledid and made at my coste."

Seven miles and a half from Norwich we come to

BLOFIELD, in Domesday book written *Blafelda*, from its site near the river. This hundred, with that of Flegg, are among the richest districts of the county, and are noted for their valuable grazing pastures, turnips, &c. The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Andrew. This hundred formed part of the deanery of Blofield, but no deans have been col-lated since the reformation. In the 38th year of Henry III. on an appeal of death in the court of King's Bench, the defendant put in a plea of juris-diction, alleging that he was a clerk. The Dean of Blofield, J. R. appeared in court in behalf of the Bishop of Norwich, and under his letters patent; in com-pliance with which demand, the offender was delivered

into the custody of the aforesaid dean, the court at the same time requesting that a speedy trial might take place, and strict justice be done the accused in the ecclesiastical court, according to the tenor of the canon law. "This is a striking instance of the manner of pleading the *benefit of the clergy* at that period. This *privilegium clericale*, like the *privilegium sanctuarii*, in the course of time became an intolerable nuisance to society, as it often enabled the crafty and vicious to defeat the ends of justice. By the corruption of the times, and those sinister views ever inseparable from man where opportunity offers for their accomplishment, numbers partook of the benefit of the divided jurisdiction who were not in holy orders, nor even *trimmed*, as the law required, with the *clerical tonsure*, provided they could read, a high accomplishment in those days of ignorance and superstition. In more enlightened times it was considered that learning, so far from being an extenuation of guilt, was quite the reverse: the law, therefore, wisely judged, that if the punishment of death was too severe for those who had been liberally instructed, it must be, *à fortiori*, too rigid also for the uninstructed; consequently the benefit of clergy was extended to all who were entitled to ask it, that is, to such as by the several successive statutes of criminal mitigation have only been guilty of *clergyable offences*. By virtue of this privilege, the punishment of death is commuted for branding the hand, and imprisonment, or the more judicious award of transportation."

To the right of this place lie several villages, which we shall notice; the first of these is

BRADESTON. It appears that about the year 1095, the lords of this town assumed the name of *De Breideston*. Sir John Carbonel, another lord, by his testament, dated on Friday next after the feast of St. Martin, 1423, gives to Margaret, wife of his son Richard, a chain of gold, and to Richard, his silver vessels,

jewels, and goods in several manors. The will of this Richard is dated November 24, 1429. He bequeaths to Margaret, his wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Tudenham, of Oxburgh, several silver vessels and jewels. John, his son, was to have, after her decease, the *moveable altar*, and the old heir loom, called *Caston's bolle*, (bowl) as every old family had anciently some particular cup, bowl, &c. that went from the father to the son and heir, and was carefully preserved, highly revered and esteemed. To Margaret, his daughter, he bequeathed a primer, viz. a psalter manuscript, also a silver cup and salter. This Sir Richard is said to have died in 1429, in foreign parts. Margaret, his widow, was buried in 1431, in the church of the Franciscans at Norwich.

Nearly adjoining to this place is

STRUMPSHAW. The ancient family of De Danmartin were early enfeoffed of this lordship by a grant from the crown. In the reign of Henry II. flourished Aubrey, Manasser, William, and Odo de Danmartin. The small village that still bears the name of Strumpshaw stands upon an eminence that suddenly rises among the marshes that spread for miles on each side the Yare. At this place is a remarkable windmill, supposed to stand on the highest ground in the county: hence Yarmouth and Lowestoffe are easily distinguished, and it commands a fine view over the adjacent hundreds, the city of Norwich, and the meanderings of the river till it falls into Brayton Broad. The windmill also, when the sails are going, forms a conspicuous landmark to distant parts of the county.

A road from this place leads directly to Buckingham.

BUCKINGHAM or BOKENHAM, which takes its name from its site on the river Yar, over which here is a ferry. The church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, as most churches are, standing near some river or water.

The arms of the Godsalves and Townsends were in Buckingham Hall.

Less than a mile from this village is

HASINGHAM, which contains nothing remarkable.

Proceeding from this place to the southward, on the bank of the Yare, we arrive at

CANTLEY. This is one of the towns that was taken care of by Godric, the Conqueror's steward, and was attached to Nether Hall, or Bardolf's Manor.

About three miles to the east lies the village of

REEDHAM. The family of De Redeham at a very early period held this town as a feof of the abbot of Holm. This is stated to have been the place where the Danish king, Lothbroc, landed, when he was driven by a storm, in an open boat, upon the coast of East Anglia.

Between Cantley and this place are the villages of Limpenhoe, Southwood, and Freethorp, all to the north of Reedham.

LIMPENHOE. This lordship was granted by the crown after the survey to several lords, but the chief manor was given to Flaald, lord of Mileham. The church, dedicated to St. Botolph, has been consolidated with Southwood.

SOUTHWOOD is first mentioned under the invasion or seizures of the lands at the conquest, made without any title or grant from the Conqueror, but from the Cleeres it came to the Berneys of Reedham, and others.

FREETHORP. Baldwin, the bishop's steward, held this under a commendation of William de Beaufoe, Bishop of Thetford, who had a grant of it from the Conqueror, in fee.

To the east of these last villages lie Wickhampton, Halvergate, and Tunstall.

WICKHAMPTON was anciently the property of the

Gerbriggess family, and their arms appear in several parts of the church, though much defaced by length of time.

HALVERGATE. The Conqueror was lord of this town when it was forfeited on the rebellion of Ralph Guader, Earl of Norfolk: this and the lordship were afterwards granted by the crown to the Bigods.

TUNSTALL at the time of the survey was held by Turolde, under Beaufoe. Gilbert, an officer of the Conqueror's cross-bow men, was rewarded for his services with a lordship here, on the expulsion of Ratho, a freeman.

Returning towards the road, we next arrive at Moulton.

MOULTON. After the Conqueror's time it appears that this town and manor were granted to the Bigods, probably by King Stephen, and were held of them by several persons.

About a mile and a half nearer the road is

BEIGHTON OR BOYTON. The principal lordship of this town was bought by Almar, Bishop of Elmham, and brother to Stigand, Archbishop of Canterbury, of Algar, Earl of Mercia. Sir John Fastolf, knt. in the third of Henry IV. held the manor called Reedham Hall, in Beighton, by the fourth part of a fee, and died lord in 1459.

Nearly on a line with this place is

SOUTH BERLINGHAM. By the grant of the Conqueror, Bishop Beaufoe had the greatest part of this village, which he held in fee. The Lord Bardolf's manor also extended into this parish, and the Felminghams, the Rightwises, and the families of De Hendringham and Gernon, held under him.

Between us and the road there now only remains the village of

LINGWOOD. There is no mention of this in the grand survey, it being a part and member of the

Bishop of Norwich's great lordship of Blofield, and was held of the see of Norwich by the families of De Cateston and De Lingwood.

We now rejoin the road at

NORTH BURLINGHAM, which contains the church of St. Andrew, and in this town was also the church of St. Peter. Here is Burlingham Hall, the seat of — Burroughs, esq.

We shall now notice a few villages lying on our left; the first of these is

HEMLINGTON. This lordship was in the crown at the time of the survey, and under the care of Godric; it was afterwards granted to the family of Le Boteler, and from them came to the Botetourts.

About a mile to the northward is

PANXFORD, or PANXWORTH. This town takes its name from Pan, so called from some stream or river, by the Britons; thus, Panworth in Norfolk, &c.

To the north of this place, near the banks of the Thurne river, is the village of

WOODBASTWICK. This at a very early period was granted to the family of La Veile, some of whom were living here in the reign of Edward IV. The church was dedicated to St. Fabian, and appropriated to the abbey of St. Bennet of Holm. In 1518 Ralph Goodwin gave to the building of the steeple 13s. 4d.

To the east of this place, about the same distance from the road, lies

RANDWORTH. This was granted by the crown to the Bigods, Earls of Norfolk, and came from them to Thomas de Brotherton, to the Mowbrays and Howards, Dukes of Norfolk, and in the second year of James I. was sold by Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, to Henry Holditch, esq. a descendant of Richard de Holditch, lord of Dudlington.

Returning towards the road, we pass

SOUTH WALSHAM. Formerly there were two churches

in this town, one of them dedicated to St. Laurence. That of St. Mary, which remains, does not contain any thing remarkable. About two miles from this place, and within one mile of the road, is

FISHLEY. Of this lordship the family of La Veile were enfeoffed in the second year of King John. Sir John De Veile and Lecia his wife were living in the reign of Edward I. and gave lands near this town and Witton to the priory of Bromholm. The church is dedicated to St. Mary.

We now rejoin our road at

ACLE. Though this is now a village, it was once a market town, and one of the earliest possessions of the Bigods. Acle, Blomefield observes, lies by the river Bure, near its falling into the Hier or Yar, and takes its name from its site, *A-cle*, or *Cley*, as a place at times overflowed; thus Cley by the sea, and Cley Cockley, near Swaffham. Richard II. in the 11th year of his reign granted to the inhabitants freedom from all tolls, suits of shire, and of hundred, &c. In the year 1788 a house of industry was erected at Acle for seven united parishes. At *Acle Dam*, near the south bank of the river, stood a small religious house, called *Way Bridge Priory*, founded for canons regular of the Augustine order, by Roger Bigod, in the reign of Edward I. A stone bridge, of one arch, connects the hundred of Walsham with that of West Flegg. Quitting this place, we proceed to

BILLOCKLY, or BILLOPLY. William de Beaufoe, Bishop of Thetford, was the chief lord of this town at the survey; after his death it devolved upon his see and successors, and was held by several persons under them. The church is dedicated to All Saints.

On our right we observe the villages of Stokesby, Heringby, Thrickby, and Runham.

STOKESBY. William de Schohies, a Norman, had a grant of this lordship from the Conqueror, and held

it at the survey. The family of the Cleres and the Windhams have been among its principal possessors. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew.

HERINGBY was once distinguished for its college, or hospital, founded, according to the will of Hugh Attefenby, Alianore, his widow, and William Jenney, sergeant at law, supervisors of his will, dated February 5, 1475, wherein Hugh appoints a master or governor, three priests, eight poor folks, and two servants in his almshouse, called "God's poor almshouse, and his, and thereby settles 44*l.* per annum thereon." The church at Heringby is dedicated to St. Ethelbert.

THRICKBY in the reign of Edward II. was held with Ormesby manor by William de Ormesby, from whom it came to the Cleres, and has since passed through several other families. The church is dedicated to St. Mary. Thrickby Hall is the seat of R. Woolmer, esq.

RUNHAM belonged to Robert de Evermere in the reign of King John, who had the grant of a market and a fair here, on the vigil and day of St. Peter ad Vincula. The church is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul. Rose Dook, in 1501, left a legacy for the building of the steeple. Having noticed these villages, we proceed to

CLIPPESBY, situated 14 miles from Norwich. All this parish was in the Conqueror's hands at the time of the survey. The church is a rectory, dedicated to St. Peter. On a tombstone in the church, in Blomefield's time, was the portraiture of a man and his wife, in brass, with a Latin inscription, dated 1503, and on a raised altar tomb, on the south side of the chancel, similar portraitures, with this inscription: Here lyes the bodyes of John Clipesbye, esq. and Julian his wife, who had issue William, deceased, and left Audrey, Francis, and Julian, his daughters and coheirs, which John died 31st March, 1594.

We next proceed to BURGH. The Conqueror had 20 acres of land here, which were valued in his lordship of Castre. In the third of Edward III. William de Burgh claimed free warren, and a free fishery from Burgh Bridge to Stokeby Fleck, which used to be common. Henry III. granted a free market weekly on Monday, and a fair yearly on the vigil and day of St. Margaret, and for six days following.

This town contained two churches, St. Margaret's and St. Mary's.

On the left of this place, between us and the river Thurne, are the villages of Rollesby and Thurne.

ROLLESBY is among the grants of the Conqueror to William Beaufoe, Bishop of Thetford, and from the inscriptions in the church it would appear that this place had been many years the residence and partly the property of the Claxtons. Here were the guilds of St. Mary, St. George, and St. John Baptist; also their lights, and those of St. Thomas, and the rowel light before the crucifix.

THURNE takes its name from the river Thurne. The church is dedicated to St. Edmund. Proceeding along the banks of this river, to the eastward, we observe

BASTWICK. This was a hamlet belonging to the town of Repps, and William de Beaufoe had a grant from the Conqueror of some lands here. The church of Repps is dedicated to St. Peter. About two miles further, in the same direction, lies

MARTHAM. The family of de Gunton had a considerable interest here in the reign of King John. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, was a rectory, and given by Roger de Gunton with all its appurtenances, with the consent of Nicholas, his son and heir, in the presence of William, Bishop of Norwich, to the prior and convent of Norwich, for the redemption of his

soul, about the year 1160. In the year 1297 one Simon Blaking of this place fled into the church of St. Nicholas at Yarmouth, and confessed that he had broken open the house of one Hill, of Hemesby, and stolen a bacon, value two shillings, and afterwards broken from the prison of Southtown, and killed William Fitz Nicholas Blaking, of Martham. He then abjured the kingdom in the presence of the coroner, the bailiffs of Yarmouth, &c. He was allowed port at Erwell, and to transport himself in 15 days. Blomefield observes, that such papal abjurations frequently happened in this church, especially in the reigns of Edward I. II. and III. According to the laws in those days, if a murderer could reach a churchyard before he was apprehended, on confession of his crimes there to a coroner, justice, &c. he was permitted to abjure the kingdom without taking his trial, and accordingly set him at liberty.

Continuing our way towards the sea coast, we pass the Somertons.

SOMERTON WEST. Here a considerable lordship was held at the Conqueror's survey, under Alan the Great, Earl of Richmond. Earl's manor in this parish was also a part of the great lordship of this Alan. The church is thatched, and has a round tower, the upper part of which is octangular.

SOMERTON EAST. This lordship, in the reign of William II. was granted by that monarch to William de Albin, his butler, ancestor to the Earls of Arundel. Here was formerly a chapel dedicated to St. Mary, but it has been in ruins many years. About a mile from this place, immediately on the coast, is

WINTERTON, which though at present a village, inhabited by fishermen, had once a market and a fair, which have been discontinued many years. The church is dedicated to All Saints, and here were the

arms of Bishop Bateman, Fastolf, Begeville, &c. A little to the eastward of this village is the Ness, which surmounted by the steeple of the church forms a good landmark. Sir William Erskine, knt. and John Meldrum, esq. erected a lighthouse on this point in the 16th century. Lately there have been two lights, one produced by the burning of coals, the other by oil. In 1665, in consequence of the encroachments made by the sea on the cliffs, several large bones were found. One of these, weighing 57 pounds, was supposed by the faculty of that time to be human. Turning towards the right to rejoin the road, we arrive at

HEMESBY. This was part of a large capital manor in the Conqueror's time, and was granted to Bishop Beaufoe, who left it to his successors. In the sixth year of William de Claxton, prior of Norwich, a court was held by him, when it was found by the homage that it was the custom of this manor, on the death of a villain, that his heir had a right to, and might claim, a cart and a plough, with their utensils; a table with its cloth, a ladder, a bason, and washing vessel, dishes and plates, a grindstone, spade, and fork.

Leaving this place on our way to Ormsby, on our left we see the village of SCROTBY. This has been formerly in the families of the Bardolfs and the Cleres. The church is dedicated to All Saints. Robert Allen, in 1548, was the last vicar, the living being then consolidated or united to Ormesby.

In 1582 a singular event took place at Scrotby sand, so called from its proximity to this village. This sand was swept away by a strong easterly wind and tide, and became sea again, after having emerged from the water but a few years before, and formed itself into a small island. This was about 1578, when it became entirely dry land, and raised its head so much above high water mark, that grass grew upon it, and sea fowl began to build their nests. Thus formed into a pleasant spot,

several of the inhabitants of Yarmouth used to go there in summer time for recreation. On the second of August, 1580, the bailiffs, with a respectable company of gentlemen, burgesses, mariners, &c. went to take formal possession of this spot, by the name of Yarmouth Island, where they dined and passed the day in festivity. As from some circumstances it was supposed this island would accumulate and become of importance to the town, Sir Edward Clere opposed the corporation by claiming possession of it as a parcel of his manor of Scrotby; for this purpose he erected what was called a frame of timber upon it, as a testimony of his claim. This spot was the more eagerly contended for on account of the many valuable goods that were often washed on shore from vessels wrecked on the coast, especially in 1582, when several parcels of silk, wax, &c. were taken up there, and carried to Yarmouth in spite of Sir Edward's claim. This contest, however, was but of short duration. The sea, as before indicated, put in its more powerful claim, received again its property, and left Sir Edward and the people of Yarmouth "not a wreck behind," whereby to keep alive the fruitless contention.

Having nearly returned back to our road, we now arrive at ORMESBY. The ancient family of de Ormeby were lords of this manor, and were succeeded by the Cleres. Here were formerly four churches, all in the gift of the crown, St. Margaret, St. Michael, St. Peter, and St. Andrew; that of St. Margaret was the principal, to which Elizabeth Clere gave 10*l.* in 1492, towards rebuilding the steeple. St. Peter's and St. Andrew's have been many years in ruins, though it seems they were used in 1591.

We now rejoin the high road at FILBY. The ancient family of Filby assumed their name from this town, and were lords of the manor. Sir Ralph de Filby and Isabel, his wife, were living about the year 1280, and

Robert de Filby was lord of East Hall in this town, in 1315. John de Plumstede kept his first court at Filby, in 1324. In the windows of St. Baptist's chapel in Filby church were the images of St. Edmund, St. John Baptist, and St. Mary, with an *orate* for Edmund Norman, of Filby, Margaret, his wife, and Edmund, his son.

Proceeding towards Caistor, on our right is the little village of MAUNBY. The family of Mauteby had a considerable interest in this place so early as the tenth year of Richard I., and continued here till 1481, when they were succeeded by the Pastons. "At the east end of the church against the south wall lies a curious antique monument; a stone coffin, about a foot and a half deep, resting on the pavement, and about seven feet in length; on the lid, or cover, the whole being of grey marble, are the effigies of a Knight Templar, cross-legged, in armour, in full proportion, his sword in a broad belt hanging over his shoulder, in memory of a knight of the family of *De Mauteby*, and living, as the monument bespeaks, about the year 1250." The south aisle of this church, where many of the Mautebys were buried, has fallen to ruins; it had been rebuilt by Margaret Paston, the heiress of the family, who was also interred here.

At the distance of 20 miles from Norwich we now arrive at

CAISTOR, next Yarmouth. In the celebrated *Notitia Imperii*, or survey of the Roman empire, published by Pancirollus in 1593, it appears that the Roman commander of the Stablesian horse, under the Count of the Saxon shore, in Britain, was stationed at a place called *Garianonum*, or the mouth of the Gariensis or Yare; but where that ancient fortress was situated authors are not exactly agreed. Camden places it at Burgh Castle, in Suffolk, and says that Yarmouth rose out of its ruins. Sir Henry Spelman places it at Cais-

tor. There is no doubt that the Romans at different times occupied both these places, as each port became more or less navigable. It is certain that an arm of the sea, which formerly overflowed the marshes between Yarmouth and Norwich, must nearly have reached Burgh Castle, and this may account for the anchors, &c. found near it. But as the coins frequently dug up at Caistor, in a place called the East Field Bloody Furlong, are of more ancient date than those found at Burgh Castle; this affords strong evidence that Caistor was the ancient *Garianonum*. It is the generally received opinion that the Yare formerly had two channels into the ocean; one to the north at Cocklewater, or Grubbs haven by Caistor, the other to the south near Gorleston. The channel by Caistor at an early period was deemed by the inhabitants of Yarmouth as the best harbour, and they accordingly built the town further to the north than it now stands. The north-east winds prevailing on this part of the coast, formed a sand-bank, which choking up the channel at Caistor, reached along the shore nearly to Gorleston, and in process of time becoming firm land, the inhabitants deserted the ruined channel, and removed to the southern one near Gorleston, at which time it is probable that Burgh Castle was built and became the *New Garianonum* of the Romans. These two stations were extremely well situated on each side of the river, upon fine eminences, in sight of each other, and admirably well calculated to defend the shore against the depredations of the Saxons, who upon the decline of the Roman empire paid many unwelcome visits to the inhabitants of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Kent, the coasts of which were called the Saxon shore, from being opposite to the German coast, then occupied by the Saxons.

Two miles west of the Roman station at Caistor are the remains of an ancient seat of the family of the



Engraved by J. Higham, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

CASTOR CASTLE,
near Yarmouth,
NORFOLK.

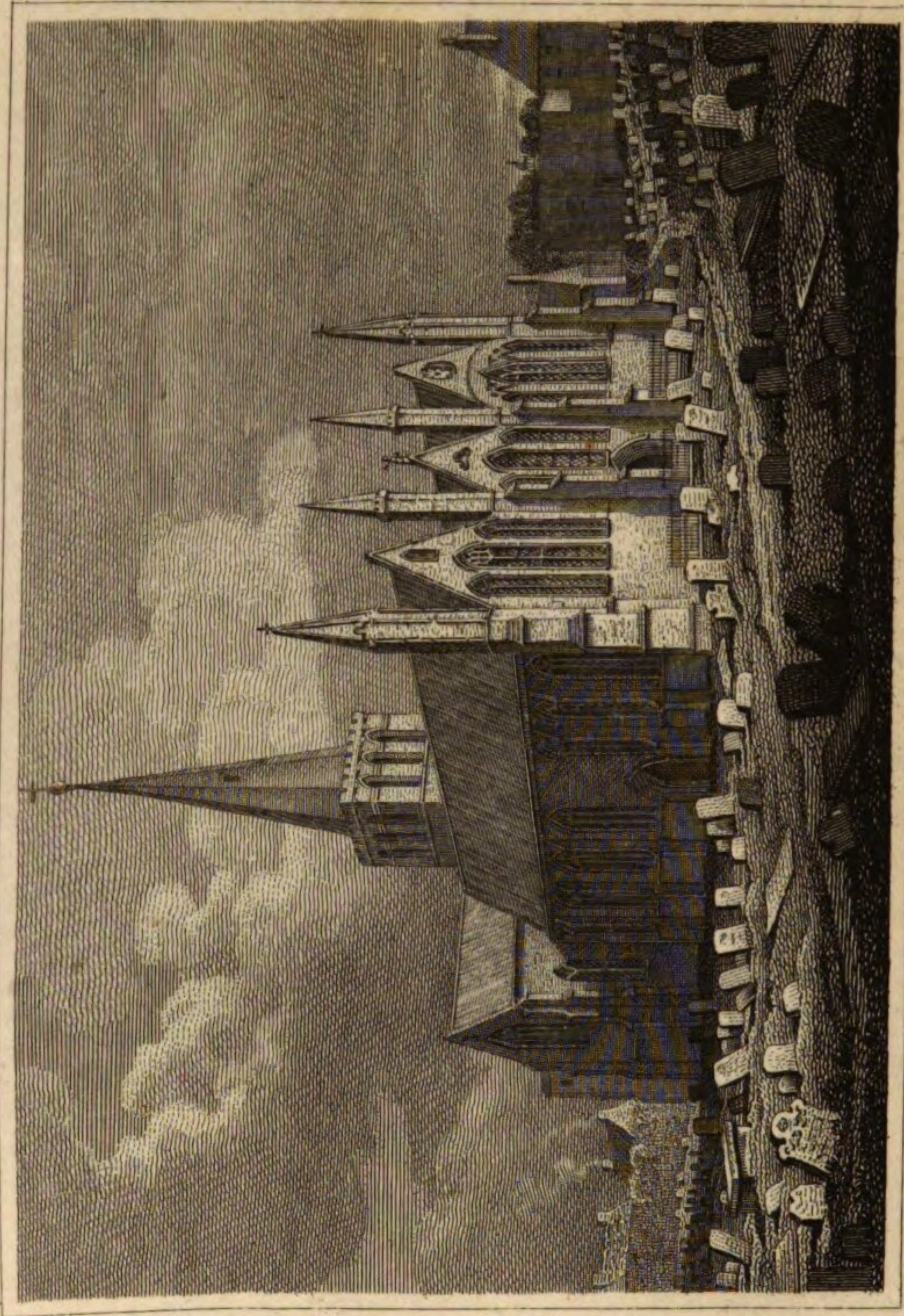
Pub. April 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Falstolfs. Captain Grose, who inspected this place in 1771, observed, that from the materials, which are English brick, it could not be older than the beginning of Henry VI. 1449, when that manor belonged to Sir John Fastolff, a general and knight of the garter, and had been in that family ever since the reign of Edward II. The castellated mansion of Caistor, according to tradition, was finished by Sir John Fastolf with a part of the money which he received for the ransom of John II. King of France, whom he took prisoner at the battle of Verneuil, in 1424, called the battle of Herrings. The ruins of Caistor show it to have been both capacious and strong; but the moat is now filled up, except on the west, which was the grand entrance. The house formed a rectangular parallelogram, the south and north sides larger than the east and west: the stables were in the front, the best rooms on the right hand of the square; under which was a noble vault, and over it probably the great hall. The embattled brick tower at the north-west corner, 100 feet high, is still standing; and on an arch over a bow window, in the inside of the ruins, were the arms of Sir J. Fastolf, surrounded with the garter, neatly carved in stone. Adjoining to the tower is a dining parlour, 59 feet long and 28 broad, the great fire-place of which is still to be seen. The west and north walls also remain with the tower: the south and east sides are nearly level with the sea. Eastward from the castle stood the college, founded by John Paston, esq. sen. in 1464. This formed three sides of a square, larger than those of the former, with two round towers; but the whole are at present converted into barns and stables. The castle moat is said to have communicated with a creek navigable to the ocean. Adjoining the farmhouse is a small building, called the barge-house, now used as a stable, in which is shewn the crown of an arch, about eight feet in diameter, which must have

been capable of receiving a boat of considerable burthen. It is remarkable that, with respect to the character of Sir J. Fastolf, all the writers, who ought to be better acquainted with it than Shakespear, seem to consider it in a light exactly the reverse of that drawn by him. Their account also seems consonant with a concise sketch given of this knight in the reign of Henry VIII. by Sir Thomas Wriothesly, then king at arms, wherein he is styled "a great builder, having built Caistor Hall in Norfolk, a royal palace in Southwark, and another in Yarmouth, and a special good master to the officers of arms." The house in Tombland in Norwich, called Samson and Hercules's Court, from two colossal figures in wood that lately stood at the gate, was formerly the residence of Sir John Fastolf, and probably built by him. Several estates in the lower part of the city of Norwich are certainly known, by deeds existing, to have been his property, so far was he from the needy spendthrift represented by Shakespear. In all probability this Sir J. Fastolf never was the character designed by the great poet, neither was it possible that he could have been living and at the age of maturity previous to the accession of Henry V.

Our road now turning to the right, we have a fine view of the ocean all the way as we proceed to

YARMOUTH. This celebrated town, $123\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the metropolis, contains 3480 houses and 17977 inhabitants. The market is held on Saturdays, and there is a fair on the Friday and Saturday in Easter week. The town of Yarmouth stands upon a peninsula, and forms an oblong quadrangle, comprising thirty-three acres, having the sea on the east, the Yare on the west, with a drawbridge, forming a communication with the county of Suffolk. Here are four principal streets running from north to south, and the new street leading from the quay through them, and 156 narrow lanes or rows intersecting the main streets. The



Engraved by J. Verrall, from a Drawing by T. Higham, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**YARMOUTH CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

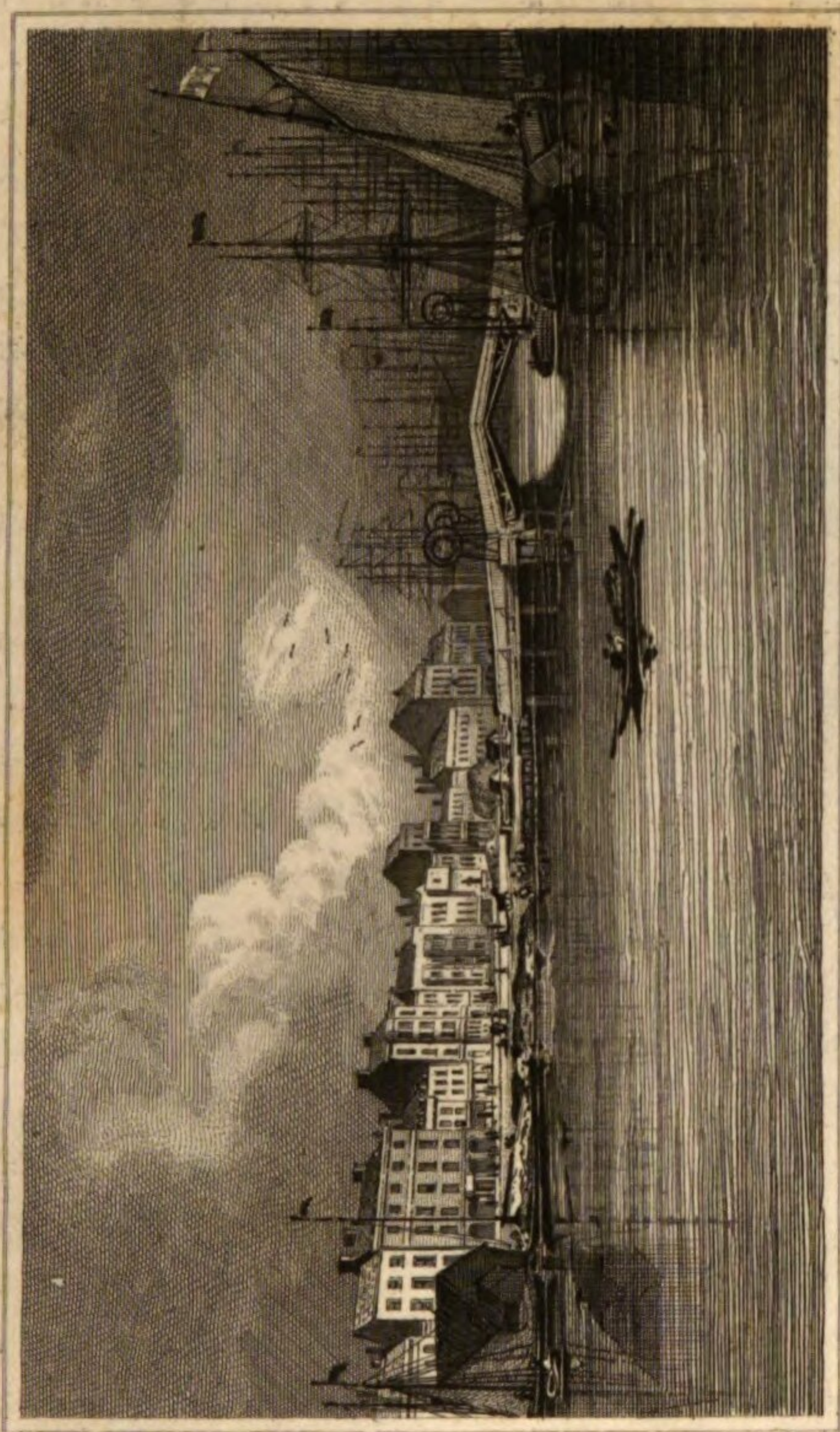
Pub^d Mar 1848, by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.

market-place forms a handsome area; and the whole has the appearance of regularity, being flanked by a wall, which had ten gates and sixteen towers, on the east, north, and south sides, being 2240 yards in length, which, with 2030 yards on the east side next the river, makes the circumference 4270 yards, or two miles and 750 yards. Though so large a place, Yarmouth forms but one parish, and had but one church, that of St. Nicholas, erected by Herbert de Losinga in the year 1123, and greatly enlarged in 1250, when there were no less than 17 chapels or oratories, each of which had its image, altar, lights, &c. supported by a society called a *guild*. The church at present consists of a nave, two aisles, a transept, and had, till lately, a wooden spire, 186 feet high, which appeared crooked in whatever direction it was seen. It was taken down in the year 1803, and another erected in 1804. The organ here is said to be inferior to none, excepting the celebrated one at Haerlem in Holland. At the east end of the middle aisle stands the communion table, where before the reformation stood the great or high altar, and over it a loft, or porch, called the rood-loft, which supported a large crucifix, behind which was a vestry. The rood-loft was erected by Roger de Haddiscoe, prior of St. Olave's, in 1370, and ornamented with curious devices and decorations at his expense: it was called *Opus pretiosum circum magnum altare*, or the precious or costly work about the great altar; and, when lighted by lamps and candles, according to ancient custom, must have appeared exceedingly splendid. In the north-west corner of the north aisle is a chamber vestry, containing a library of ancient books, of about 200 volumes, mostly folios, but of little value. In this room is a desk of singular construction, containing seven shelves, so contrived as to turn round and present the books on any of the shelves to your hand without displacing the rest. This church,

till the year 1716, was the only place of worship for persons of the establishment, when a handsome chapel was erected and dedicated to St. George, and supported by a levy of one shilling per chaldron on all coals consumed within the borough of Yarmouth.

The spot on which Yarmouth stands, according to tradition, was first discovered by a fisherman, whose name was Fuller; hence the highest part of the town, a short distance west of the church, still retains the name of Fuller's Hill. Thus emerging from the sea, Yarmouth became the property of the king, and was accordingly styled *Terra Regis*. It was afterwards subject to the control of a certain number of earls, deputed as its governors; and these earls appointed reeves, or port-reeves, as acting magistrates. But in the reign of King John we find it under the government of a single magistrate, styled the Provost, when it was created a free borough by charter. Among the public buildings are the *Town Hall*, the *Royal Barracks*, the *Armoury*, the *Fisherman's Hospital*, the *Hospital School*, &c. The former, situated near the centre of the quay, is a handsome building, with a portico of the Tuscan order. The council-room, which is also used for assemblies, is a well-proportioned apartment, and has at one end a full length portrait of George II. in his coronation robes.

Yarmouth Quay is justly the pride and boast of the inhabitants, and is allowed to be equal to that of *Marseilles*; that of *Seville* only is admitted as being larger than either. Its length is about 1016 yards from the south gate northward to the bridge, and continued above the bridge to the extremity of *North Quay* makes the whole extent one mile and 270 yards. In many places it is 150 yards broad. Besides the *Town Hall* situated here, it is embellished by the *Custom-house*, and a line of merchants houses of the first order.



Engraved by J.C. Horrell from a Drawing by J.S. Cooper for the Excursions through Norfolk.

THE QUAY YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.

Pub. 2 April 1849 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

The *Fisherman's Hospital* is of a quadrangular form, and contains twenty rooms on the ground floor, each of which is intended for an old fisherman and his wife, who have a weekly allowance in money and an annual allowance of coals. Here, if a fisherman die, his widow must quit the hospital at a certain time, unless another fisherman, who is already there, agrees to marry her.

The *Hospital School*, for feeding, clothing, and educating thirty boys and twenty girls, is supported by the corporation.

The charity school is supported by annual subscription; 70 boys and 30 girls are clothed and taught, and 90 Sunday boys and 50 Sunday girls receive moral instruction.

Two Lancastrian schools, for 180 boys and 80 girls, are also supported by voluntary contributions.

The public library, on the quay, has an extensive and valuable collection of books; besides which here are circulating libraries and reading-rooms, well supplied with the daily and provincial newspapers, pamphlets, and periodical publications.

The concert-room adjoining the public library, recently built, is a spacious and elegant apartment, where amateur concerts are performed twelve times in the year, six in the spring and six in the autumn. The Yarmouth races are held in July.

Yarmouth has long been much frequented as a fashionable watering-place, and furnishes every accommodation for the health, comfort, and amusement of its visitors. The bath, which was erected in 1759, cost 1000*l*. It stands on the beach, which is about three furlongs distance from St. George's Chapel. The vestibule is a neat, well-proportioned room, with windows fronting the town and the sea. On the right of the entrance are four closets, having each a door into the bath-room. This bath is fifteen feet by eight, and

is appropriated for gentlemen. A similar one is assigned for the use of the ladies. The present proprietor has recently added, at very considerable expense, two warm baths admirably constructed, with two withdrawing rooms for them, and two tea-rooms for private parties; also a billiard-room. The great room has been newly painted and ornamented, and the whole establishment will be found for comfort, attention, and convenience, inferior to none in the kingdom. The sea-water is raised every tide by a horse-mill into a reservoir at a distance of 50 yards from the baths, into which it is conveyed by separate pipes. Adjoining to the north end of the bath-house, is a large and pleasant public room, where company are accommodated with tea and coffee. The jetty, close to the bath-house, is 456 feet long, and 24 feet broad. This forms an agreeable walk; and the lively scene, of ships almost perpetually sailing in different directions, renders the prospect peculiarly interesting.

The theatre, erected in 1778, situated on a plain near the south end of the market-place, is, considering the importance of this town, one of the worst in England, both for size and convenience. It is intended shortly to be rebuilt or enlarged. The Norwich company perform here twice in the year, in June, and August and September.

The most splendid public edifice in Yarmouth is the royal barracks (originally intended for a naval hospital) on the South Denes, erected in 1810, from a design by Mr. Pilkington, at an expense of 120,000*l*.

An object of considerable pride and interest to the county, and to Yarmouth in particular, is the Nelson monument now building on the South Denes, between the royal barracks and the haven's mouth. It is now (April, 1818) 86 feet high, and will be, when completed, 130 feet, exclusive of the statue of Nelson or Britannia (with one of which it is to be surmounted)



Engraved by W. Deeble from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

N.W. View of
NELSON'S MONUMENT,
On the Dunes Yarmouth,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d April 1. 1819 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

of the height of 10 or 12 feet. It is a fluted column of stone, and will add to the reputation of the architect, Mr. Wilkin. The first stone was laid by Colonel Woodhouse, August 15, 1817, in the mayoralty of Isaac Preston, jun. esq.

Among the peculiarities of this place, is the general use of a low, narrow cart, adapted to the lanes or *rows* through which it may pass. It is drawn by a single horse, and is much employed in conveying goods to and from the shipping.

Yarmouth is defended by three forts, erected on the verge of the beach during the American war, mounted with thirty-two pounders. The harbour is also protected by two bastions of a mural construction, with two smaller bastions, one at the extremity of the *denes*, or sands, the other on an elevated spot on the other side of the water. An armoury was erected under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, in 1806. This building stands on the west side of the town, and is calculated to contain 10,000 stand of arms, besides a large assemblage of naval stores.

Since Yarmouth was erected into a free burgh by King John, on condition of paying a fee farm-rent of 55*l.* annually for ever, different charters, to the number of twenty-five, were obtained from succeeding monarchs. The last, granted by Queen Anne, settled the mode of government in its present form, consisting of a mayor, high steward, sub-steward, recorder, eighteen aldermen, inclusive of the mayor, thirty-six common-council men, a town clerk, two chamberlains, a water bailiff, and other inferior officers. The mayor, high steward, recorder, sub-steward, and such aldermen as have previously served the office of mayor, are justices of peace during their continuance in their respective offices. The corporation have also a court of record and admiralty, and their jurisdiction as conservators of rivers extends 10 miles up the Waveney, the Yare, and the Bure. Yarmouth sent members to par-

liament in the reign of Edward I. equally early with Norwich and Lynn. The representatives are chosen by the freemen, who obtain their freedom either by inheritance or servitude. The returning officer is the mayor, and the number of voters nearly 2000.

Yarmouth is advantageously situated for commerce, particularly to the north of Europe; and lying at the mouths of the rivers Yare, Bure, and Waveney, navigable for keels of 40 tons, has ready communication with the interior. Besides fishing smacks, &c. upwards of 500 vessels belong to this port; and its mariners are considered among the most able and expert in the kingdom. Yarmouth, during the late war, became a grand station for a part of our navy; and the roads form not only a rendezvous for the North Sea fleet, but also for the numerous colliers which pass from Shields, Sunderland, and Newcastle, to London. The coast is one of the most dangerous in Britain, of which many heart-appalling instances might be readily adduced. What was called *Gorleston steeple*, fell with a most tremendous crash, during a strong gale of wind, on the morning of the 4th of February, 1813. Its great elevation was a sure friend to the mariner in making the land in fogs and thick weather. Its loss, however, will be fully supplied by the naval pillar. Yarmouth was early distinguished by, and still remains unrivalled in the herring fishery, which commences in September; and the fishing for mackarel (also very considerable here) begins about the middle of June. The polite amusements of the theatre, assembly room, and concerts, particularly during the bathing season, render the residence of strangers here perfectly agreeable; and those who are fond of fishing, sailing, or bowling, will find ample opportunities of gratifying those inclinations. One bowling-green is pleasantly situated on the east bank of the river, and the Apollo Gardens near the North Denes.

The process at the fish-houses cannot but gratify the

curious stranger. When the herrings are landed they are taken to these houses, salted again, and, after lying on the floor 24 hours, are washed in vats by the curers, called *towers*, spitted through the head by women called *rivers*, upon spits about four feet long, and then hung up in the fish-house, a large building, from 40 to 50 feet high, fitted up for the purpose of receiving the spits in tiers. Thus prepared, a wood fire is lighted under them, and continued with small intermission for about a month, when, being properly smoked, they are packed in barrels containing one thousand each, and are then ready for the market.

Yarmouth, originally a small fishing town, and not known till the fifth century, of course furnishes little food for the mere antiquary; though it appears from the Norman survey that a church was then standing in this town, and that Bishop Herbert built a chapel for prayers to be offered up for all persons trading to or from this port. When the church of St. Nicholas was built, many persons connected with the fishery made considerable oblations towards its erection on a superior scale. Near this building Bishop Herbert also founded a priory for black monks, and made it a cell to the priory at Norwich. In succeeding years several other similar foundations were formed by the contributions of various persons, though of such buildings no vestiges remain, except part of an hospital, which has been converted into a house for a grammar-school. Among the mummeries played off here in the dark ages, what was called the *miraculous star* ought not to pass unnoticed. This was occasionally exhibited in the church of St. Nicholas; and here the priests contrived to deceive the people by some kind of pantomimical machinery. The church books contained the following articles. "In 1465, paid for leading the star 3*d.* on the Twelfth-day. Making a new star. In 1506, for hanging and scouring the star. A new balk

line to the star, and rising the star, 8d. In 1512, for a nine thread line to lead the star." There are other items for *mending* of angels, &c. When we compare the intelligence that now pervades this great commercial town, and all the concomitant comforts of life that are universally enjoyed, the contrast between its ancient and present state cannot be considered but as highly decisive of the triumph of truth and knowledge over ignorance and falsehood.

The corporation of Yarmouth voted 1000*l.* towards the building of the elegant street called Regent-street, leading from the Quay; 150*l.* for the Nelson Pillar; and 1000*l.* to purchase shares in the intended navigation from Bungay to Diss.

EXCURSION III.

From Norwich through Sprowston, Crostwick, Horstead Mill, Scottow Common, Worstead, North Walsham, Antingham, Thorpe Market, and Roughton, to Cromer.

WE shall commence the present excursion by proceeding in a northern direction towards the sea coast; soon after leaving Norwich, we observe Rackheath, and Beeston Halls lying on our right, and possessing good grounds.

SPROWSTON was long the property of the Corbets. In the church here is a mural monument of marble, with the figures of Sir Miles Corbet and Catharine his wife. He died June 9, 1607. Thomas Corbet, esq. was knighted by Charles I. in 1635. His son Miles Corbet, esq. had been one of the registers in Chancery,

a place worth 700*l.* per annum. He was afterwards chairman of the committee for *scandalous ministers*, for which he received 1000*l.* a year, and was also one of the Judges that signed the warrant for the execution of Charles I. At the restoration he fled to Holland, where he was pursued and taken, and in 1661 he was executed as a traitor. Within this parish is Sprowston Hall, the seat of T. W. Smith, esq. Near Sprowston on the right is

RACKHEATH. Great and Little Rackheath were formerly two distinct places, and each village had its church. A family who took their name from the town had a considerable share of a fee here, in the eighth year of Richard I. Here was a priory, the temporalities of which were valued in 1428, at forty-one shillings and three-pence. In this parish is Rackheath Hall, the handsome seat of Edward Stracy, esq.

BEESTON is a small village on our road, and here is Beeston Hall, the seat of — Micklethwayte, esq. Nearly adjoining to Beeston is

SPIXWORTH. The church here contains several monuments and inscriptions. Spixworth Hall was the seat of the late Francis Long, esq. A mile to our left we observe

CROSTWICK. The church is rather ancient; and it appears by the books that Ann Cook, of Horstede, wife of Robert Cook, of Crosstewheyte, by her will in 1478, ordered a man to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Rood of this place. At much about the same distance on the right of the road is

WROXHAM. Here is Wroxham Hall, the seat of S. T. Southwell, esq. A mile northward of this place is

BELAGH or BELHAGH, which Blomefield observes signifies the dwelling-place at the water; it stands close by the river Bure: the church, though not above 80 yards from it, is placed on such a hill that it com-

mands the adjacent flats; the shelves and eminences on both sides of which plainly show that the whole was formerly covered with water. The parsonage-house stands between the river and churchyard, directly under it, the bottom of the steeple being higher than the top of the house. The hill on which the church stands is so steep towards the river, or west part, that many human bones have been uncovered by the earth falling from them, occasioned by the decay of the stone wall round the churchyard, which was made to keep the hill from slipping away. A very ancient family, which took their name from this place, continued here a long time. John, son of Ybri de Belhagh, had an estate here in the time of Henry II. In the north chancel window of the church, St. Michael holds a sceptre and a sword, and a pair of scales with the Bible in the other hand, and under him are a number of men, women, and children; above him is a Latin inscription in ancient characters, expressing that St. Michael is the guardian of the faithful people. Leaving the inconsiderable village of Stanning Hall on our left, we proceed to Coltishall.

COLTISHALL. This little village is noticed in the county history from the circumstance of the early manumission granted it by Henry III., as superior lord of the whole, and of all the tenants of Sir William de Hackford here. This monarch, by letters patent, "granted to all men, women, boys or girls born, or to be born in this village of *Couteshall*, that they should be free from all villenage of body and blood, they and their families in all parts of England; and that they should not be forced to serve in any offices, for any one, unless they liked it; and that all frays or transgressions of bloodshed, bargains, and all quarrels and suits concerning the town of Colteshall, should be determined every year before the king's officers at the letes there, and the natives of Colteshall should be free from toll by water

and land in all fairs and markets throughout England, and from all stallage, poundage, and picage, being the king's tenants; and as such they were to pay to him and his successors 20s. to the aid, to make his eldest son knt. whenever it happened so that the king's officers demanded it in the village, &c. &c. This manumission or charter of freedom to the natives of this village was a very great favor and privilege in those days; there were few then born freemen; half of most villages were either customary tenants, and so bound to perform all their customary service to their lords, or else villains, or, in plain English, slaves to their several lords, who had so absolute a power, that they could grant them, their wives, and children born, or ever hereafter to be born of them, together with all their household goods, cattle, and chattels, to whomsoever they pleased; and, indeed," continues Blomefield, "nothing is more common in antiquity than to meet with grants of this nature from one lord to another, or to whomever he would; nay, so absolute was the lord's jurisdiction over them, that they could not live out of the precincts of the manor without their lord's leave, nor marry their children to another lord's tenant without their own lord's license, &c. Now because I have mentioned these manumissions, and shown their extent," this author adds, "it may not be amiss to subjoin an example or two of such assertions: many people being ignorant in what state their forefathers lived, and so are not capable of sufficiently valuing the freedom which we now enjoy." This is particularly applicable to the visionary bawlers of the present day, among whom "the liberty of our forefathers" is a stalking horse, ready to be brought forward upon all occasions when the present order of things becomes a subject of declamation.

There was a church at Coltishall long before the Norman conquest; but the present building was not

dedicated to St. John the Baptist till the year 1284. The tower is square, and contains six bells. There were formerly in the windows of this church, the arms of St. George, Seckford, Felbrigge, Clere, Le Gros, Warren, Clare, and those of France and England.

Quitting the high road at Coltishall, we shall take a circuit to the right, to observe some villages between that place and the sea. The first of these is

ASHMANHAW. This village contains nothing remarkable. The church previous to the reign of Edward I. was dedicated to St. Swithin. To the right of this place, on a line with it, is

HORTON or *Hoveton*; the name is derived from *Ho*, or *Hou*, a hill by the water. In the Confessor's time, it was a lordship belonging to St. Bennet's Abbey, of Holm, and the town, since the conquest, contained two parishes and two churches, St. Peter's and St. John's. The present church had been in ruins, and was re-built with brick in 1624; it is a small pile without a chancel. In 1170, one Margaret was killed in a wood called Littlewood, in this parish; she was buried in St. Bennet's Abbey, and enumerated among the saints. Pursuing our eastern course, we observe the contiguous villages of Irstead and Neatishead

IRSTEAD is an ancient village, but contains nothing striking in its present state.

NEATISHEAD. This lordship was given by Canute to the Abbot of St. Bennet, on his foundation of the monastery at Holm. The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and has long been without a steeple. On a brass plate upon a marble gravestone, the following specimen of monkish Latin rhyme is preserved:

Will'ms jacet hic Emmyson Marmore teste,
Ille vicar Ecclesiæ fuit hujus honeste,
Impensis simul expensis decoravit eandem
Quinquaginta tribus libris, sed funere tandem
Migrante luce pia

Qua nata est Virgo Maria
 Anno Mil C quater
 Quo simplex L fuit ter
 Exoremus ita sibi
 Detur celicia Vita.

About four miles from Neatishead, entering the hundred of Happing, we arrive at

LUDHAM. This was long a lordship belonging to the Abbot of St. Bennet, and was a very extensive manor. In the 14th of Edward I., Robert de Ludham, one of the justices of the Jews, having committed a breach of trust, was at the instance of the queen's attorney brought before the treasurer and barons of the exchequer, put out of office, and committed to prison.

The Bishop's seat here, after the reign of Philip and Mary, was formerly only a grange or farm-house of the Abbey of St. Bennet, to which the bishops Freak and Jegon, in their time, added several useful buildings. In Bishop Jegon's time, August 10, 1611, in consequence of the negligence of some persons employed in brewing, a great fire happened, which, with the greatest part of the house, consumed the bishop's study, many books, manuscripts, and rolls relating to the see, with 800*l.* in gold and silver, great part of which was found unmelted. Of the building nothing remained but the gentleman's and the chaplain's lodgings; these alone, having been built by Bishop Freak, were covered with tiles. After this Bishop Harsnet, who resided here some time, built a chapel of brick. In a glass window of the hall, before this fire occurred, the arms of the abbey were painted, with the following verses, as they stand in Blomefield, the division only being altered for the sake of making the rhyming terminations more apparent,

Anno Milleno C quater et I jubileo

Est opus hoc factum,

Finem simul usq redactum,
 In Christe laude
 Qui munera dat sine fraude.

Dr. Redman, bishop in Queen Elizabeth's time, procured a fair and a market for this town.

A road from Ludham leads to

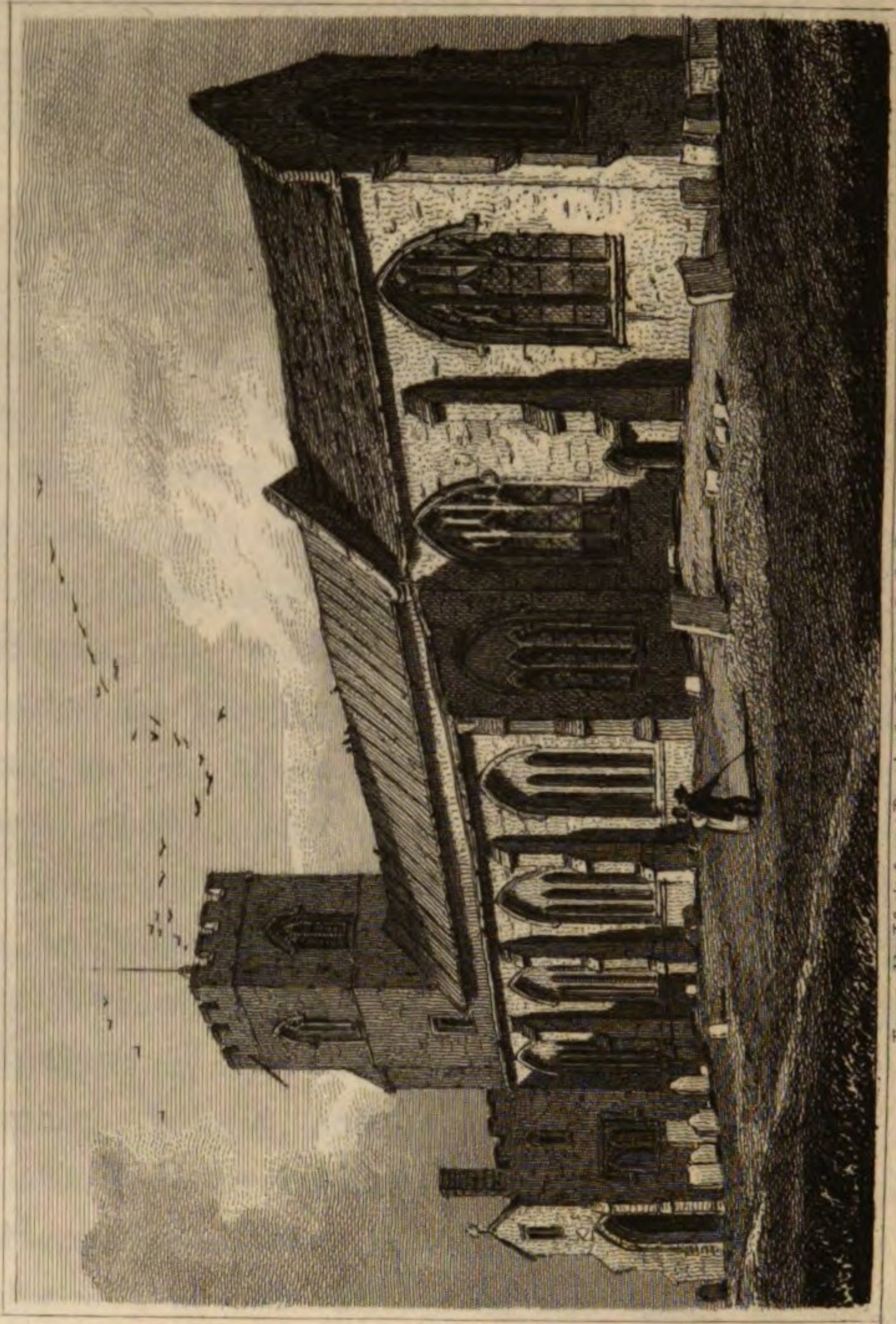
HIGHAM POTTER. In the church here is a mural monument of white marble, to the memory of Robert Mihil Clerk, vicar, who built the vicarage-house, and suffered much in the Oliverian times; for his loyalty, his piety, charity, &c. he was much beloved in this country, and died 22d of February, 1663. Here were the guilds of St. Nicholas and St. John; the lights of St. Nicholas of the high road, St. Thomas, Lady of Pity, Lady of Grace, St. Catherine, and St. Anthony. Leaving Horsey at a distance on our right, as too inconsiderable to claim a visit, we turn northwards, and at about three miles distance, arrive at

HICKLING, which is memorable for its priory, founded by Theobald de Valoins, in 1185, and dedicated to St. Mary, St. Austin, and All Saints, for canons of the order of St. Austin, and endowed with the churches of Hickling, those of Parham and Hakedon, in Suffolk, lands at Arlum, &c. Robert Botyld, alias Wymondham, was the last prior in 1503, and with three of the canons subscribed to the king's supremacy, June 4, 1534. On the dissolution, Robert Walsham, Robert Allen, Robert Bastwicke, John Michael, and Matthew Wood, were found guilty of incontinency by the visitors of the religious houses appointed by Henry VIII. The chapel of St. Mary was in Hickling churchyard. Palling and Waxham lie on the sea coast to our right, but claim no particular notice, while on our left, about three miles distant, we observe the villages of Catfield and Sutton, which we shall pass in our way to rejoin the high road.

The first of the year was a very successful one for the school. The pupils showed a great improvement in their work, and the teachers were very pleased with the results. The school was well attended, and the pupils were very happy and content.



The second of the year was also a very successful one. The pupils continued to show improvement in their work, and the teachers were very pleased with the results. The school was well attended, and the pupils were very happy and content.



Engraved by J. Gray from a Drawing by L. L. Coman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

CATFIELD CHURCH, NORFOLK.

Pub. & Sep. 7. 1848 by Longman, & Co. Stationers Row.

SUTTON. In the ancient history of this large manor, which comprehended several towns, it is remarkable that Edric, the lord here, after the custom of the Normans, assumed his name from a town, probably Laxford in Suffolk; a practice begun in the days of Edward the Confessor, and after the conquest generally adopted.

CATFIELD. Blomefield notices the following bequest made to the church here in 1510. "Robert Clarke wills to be buried in the church; and a table of St. Thomas of Ynde (India) which I have caused to be made, I wol have it stond in Catfield church."

BARTON TURF is about two miles from Catfield. The church here contains a few curious monumental inscriptions. About a mile to the north-west of this place is another village called

BEESTON. The church in this place is remarkable for its round tower and several monumental stones. Sir Jeff Wythe, knt. was buried in the chancel, in the year 1373. About a mile further westward, is

TUNSTEAD. The church here was considerable in times of popery. Robert de Greyle was patron of it in the reign of Edward I., when it had all the insignia of a mother church, viz. baptism, chrism, and burial; and to the chapel of Scornston belonged 24 mansions, with all their obventions, great and small. In the church were the tabernacles and images of our Lady of Pity, and that of the Trinity; the plough light of Upgate, in Hungate, and several guilds. We now pass

SLOLEY, which contains nothing at present remarkable, and rejoin the road, about a mile to the right of which we observe

WORSTEAD. Worsteds stuffs are said to have derived their name from being first manufactured at this place; these being mentioned in the second year of Edward III. when the manufacturers were enjoined

to work them up to a better assise than they had done, and an enquiry was made into the behaviour of Robert P., the alnager for these stuffs. The manufactures here have long been removed to Norwich and its vicinity.

Worstead Hall, the seat of Sir G. Brograve, bart. is contiguous to the village, and is a commodious mansion seated in a pleasant park. At a short distance from Worstead is the village of

SMALLBURGH. The church here formerly contained the picture of Edward the Confessor in his regalia, and his arms. In 1677, the steeple fell down and defaced part of the edifice. Out of the three bells which it contained, two were sold to build up a gable. In Edward IV.'s time, this building is said to have been 42 paces long and 18 broad.

WESTWICK lies to the north of Worstead, and has nothing remarkable to arrest our observation excepting the seat and park of J. B. Petre, esq.

Westwick House, the seat of John Berney Petre, esq. was built by John Berney, esq. grandson of the baronet, and elder brother of Richard Berney, member for Norwich, and recorder of that place for many years; whose daughter married William Petre, esq. of Newhouse, Essex, and by her inherited the Westwick estate. His father was the younger son of a Lord Petre. The present owner of Westwick, John Berney Petre, is the only surviving son of the late William Petre, and was during the early part of his life presumptive heir to the title. Westwick house is situated within eleven miles of Norwich, and three miles of North Walsham. It is deservedly esteemed one of the most delightful spots in the county. There is a handsome lodge at the entrance of the park; and the turnpike-road from Norwich to North Walsham runs through it for upwards of two miles, at the termination of which are two lodges, one of them is the turnpike



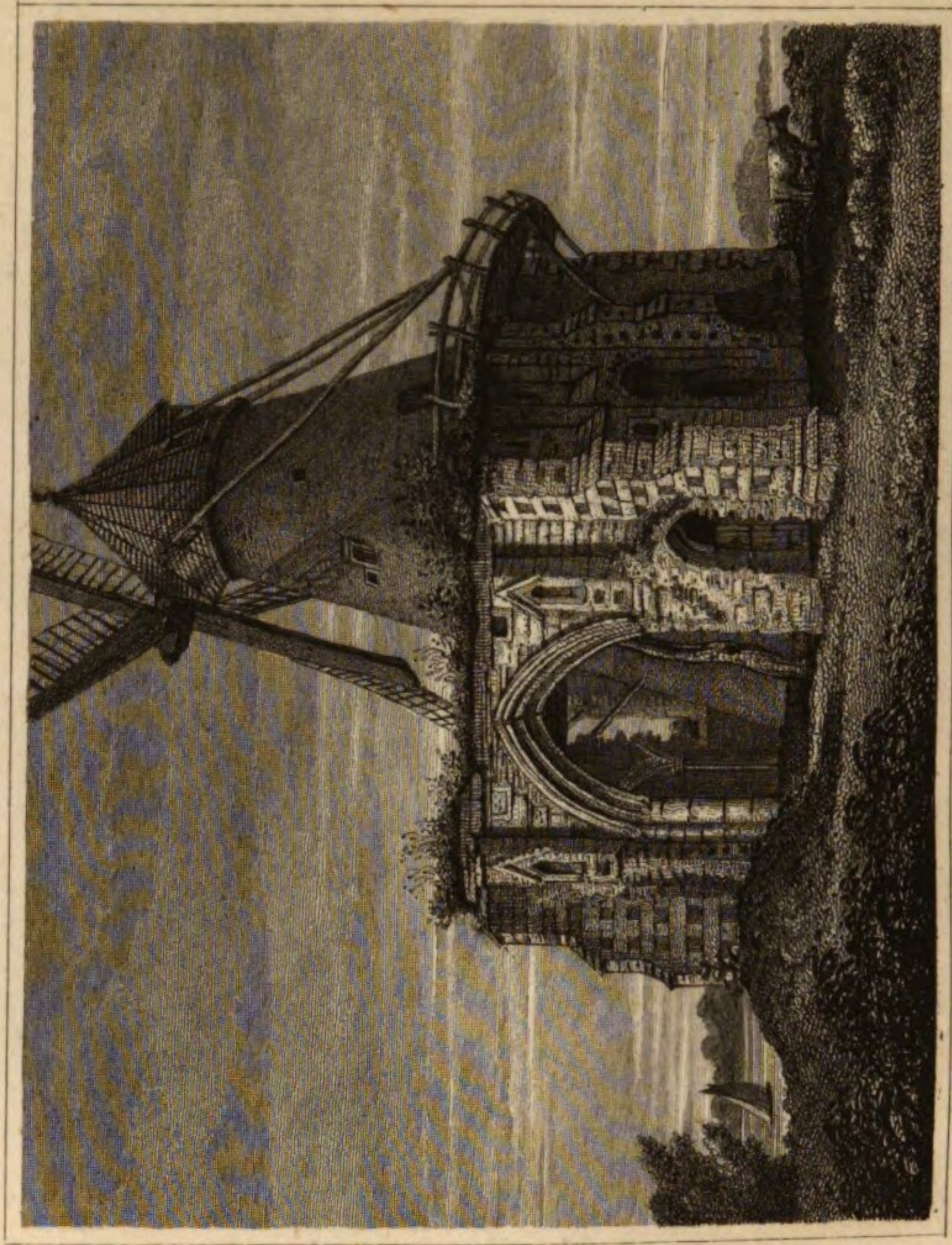
Engraved by T. Hanson, from a drawing by T. Thorne for the Excursions through Norfolk.

WESTWICK HOUSE,

The Seat of J.B. Petre Esq.

NORFOLK.

Pubd. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Kneib from a Sketch by L. Francis, for the Excursions through Norfolk

Remains of
ST BENNET'S ABBEY,
NORFOLK.

Pub. May 22 1819, by Longman & Co. Printers, 15, St. Paul's Church-Yard, London.

house. This is by far the most desirable road to Cromer. The woods are extensive and beautiful. Mr. Petre has made a carriage drive of five miles through a plantation of 500 acres, for which he received a medal from the society of arts, by the late Duke of Norfolk. The variety of hills and inequality of the ground, all planted to the water's edge, have a most beautiful effect round a lake of about thirty acres. There is also a piece of water near the house, which, from the elevated situation of the place, and the nature of the soil, it was long thought impracticable to obtain; but that difficulty is fully surmounted, by Mr. Petre's having made an aqueduct from the large lake abovementioned.

At a little distance from the house is an obelisk, ninety feet high, with a room at top neatly fitted up, from whence there is a remarkably fine prospect of a large extent of sea-coast on one side; and on the other, a rich inland country as far as the eye can reach; the whole in the highest state of cultivation, and beautifully clothed with wood.

From Worstead we turn to the right, and pass the village of HONING, which takes its name from *Ho*, a hill, and *Ing*, a meadow; the manor appears to have descended from the Jenneys, &c. to the family of the Windhams. Nearly adjoining, is Brunstead.

BRUNSTEAD is a village of little consequence.

HORNING. Here was formerly the celebrated abbey of St. Bennet's at Holme, being built in a fenny place called *Cowholme*, where a hermitage had stood. This abbey was founded by Canute, in the year 1020, for black monks of the Benedictine order. The ample endowments and privileges first granted were further extended by Edward the Confessor, the Empress Maud, and other royal personages. It was also one of the mitred abbies, and its abbots had a seat in the House of Lords. The abbey was originally built so strong,

that it appeared more like a castle than a cloister, and was so well fortified, that William the Conqueror in vain besieged it, till a monk, upon condition of being made abbot, betrayed the place. The king performed the condition, but it is said hanged the new abbot as a traitor. Part of the foundations of the walls that inclosed an area of 30 acres yet remain, but the vestiges of the once stately buildings are no more, a part of the magnificent gateway excepted, and this is partially obscured by a draining-mill erected over it. Many of the royal family visited this abbey in 1469, on Wednesday in Whitsun week; the mayor and aldermen and 100 citizens of Norwich proceeded here on horseback, and presented a petition to the king's mother. The society of antiquaries printed two views of the west or principal gate, by which it appears to have been a stately pile; on one side of the arch a person was represented with a sword in his right hand, and on the other, a lion much defaced by time. Over the arch of this gate were the arms of de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the Earl of Clare, Valence, Earl of Pembroke, Earl of Arundel, &c. On the east side were the arms of England and France, and over it those of Arundel, Erpingham, Hastings, &c. In the beginning of the reign of Edward IV., the following jingling rhymes were written as a lampoon on this abbey:

Portecum regale	Fænum Gladiale
Signum capitale	Hospitalitas parcimoniale
Sordidum Mappale	Ignis in Caminis frigidale
Olus sine Sale	Vadia Serventium valde vane
Cervisia Novale	Ideo hospites bibunt sine vale
Stratum Lapidale	Fastolf eis benefactor ampleale
Stabulum Sordidale	Et valde cito monachis immemorale.

The annual revenues, according to Speed, at the dissolution, were 677*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* In the 27th of Henry.

VIII., these were exchanged by Bishop *Rugge* or *Reppes* for those of Norwich; but the bishop being bound to provide for the prior and twelve monks, he was unable to maintain his dignity, and obtained leave to resign with a pension of 200 marks per annum. The bishop's exchange and his folly, soon after became the subject of the following satire:—

Poor Will thou *rugged* art and ragged all,
 Thy abbey cannot bless thee in such fame;
 To keep a palace fair and stately hall,
 When gone is thence what should maintain the same:
 First pay thy debts and hence return to cell,
 And pray the blessed Saint whom thou dost serve,
 That others may maintain the palace well;
 For if thou stay'st we all are like to starve.

EAST RUSTON or RITSON, three miles to the east of Honing, though an obscure village, will in future be distinguished as the birth-place of the late celebrated Richard Porson, the Greek Professor, son of Huggin Porson, the parish clerk of this place, born here on Christmas day, 1759. About three miles southward of this place, is

INGHAM. Here, as a proof of the hospitality with which Sir John Fortescue, Lord Chief Justice of England, kept house, with his Lady Elizabeth, in the 22d of Henry VII., Blomefield cites Sir John's steward's account, whose fee was 13s. 4d. per annum. For 100 salt fish, 61s.; for 200 salt fish, 66s. 8d.; 8 cades of red-herrings, 28s.; 8 barrels of white herrings, 53s. 4d.; malting of barley 6d. per quarter, and the carriage of it to Sir John's town-house at Norwich, 2d. per quarter; paid for a mare to ride to London, 20d.; for grinding a quarter of wheat, 3d.; to a chandler for making candles, 4d. a day. The tower of Ingham church is very handsome, and the edifice consists of a nave, a north and south aisle, all formerly

covered with lead. In the chancel or choir are many gravestones curiously ornamented, though they have suffered much from the injuries of the weather, &c.

Under an arch on the north side, lie the effigies of Sir Oliver Ingham in complete armour on a mattress, with his gilt spurs and a garter on his leg, as knight of that order, a lion couchant at his feet, beholding (as Weaver says) the sun, moon, and stars, all very lively set forth in metal. The back part appears to have been adorned with various emblematic statues and devices, and the helmet was supported by two angelic figures. Round the tomb are twenty-four niches, twelve on a side, containing an equal number of figures habited in various dresses representing the chief mourners. The inscription is *Mounsieur Olvier de Ingham gist icy, et Dame Elizabeth sa compagne, que luy Dieux de les almes oit merci.* He was a valiant knight, and a great favorite of Edward the II., who made him governor of several of his castles, Seneschal of Gascoigne, and Lord Warden of the marches of Guienne. King Edward III. conferred upon him the government of Aquitaine, and a grant of 500 marks sterling, with 77 sacks and a half of wool, out of the king's loft in Hampshire.

On a raised altar tomb, ornamented by alternate niches, with figures and quatrefoils, including shields, lie the effigies of a knight in armour, with his lady, inscribed “*Mounsieur Roger de Boys gist icy, et Dame Margareta sa femme, auxi vous, qui passer icy priere Dieu de leur almes eit merci Elle mouraut l'an nostre Seigneur mill trecent et quintsime, et il moraut l'an de dit nostre Seigneur, 1300.*”

A small college was annexed to the church of Ingham, by Sir Miles Stapleton, for a prior, sacrist, and six canons; their duty was the redemption of captives. To the eastward of this place, near the sea-coast, are the villages of Hemstead and Lesingham, and nearer

the sea the ruins of Eccles ; but none of these are now interesting. About a mile to the north of East Ruston, is

HAPPISBURGH. In a letter from Sir Thomas Browne to Sir William Dugdale, dated Norwich, November 17, 1659, he acquaints the latter, that the head and bones of a very large fish were then to be seen at Happisburgh, which had been discovered by the fall of the cliff into the sea, and had lain near the top of the cliff. Happisburgh Hall is situated here.

WALCOTE lies near the sea, on the borders of Happening Hundred. In the ancient account of this village and manor, the rector of the church is said, in the reign of Edward I., to have most beautiful edifices, and many acres of land.

BROOMHOLME, nearly adjoining to Walcote, was once famous for its priory, founded A. D. 1113, by W. de Glanville, for monks of the Cluniac order. The remains of this building, near the sea-side, some years since formed an interesting ruin, but most of the walls have since been incorporated with a farm-house, and the rooms converted into domestic offices. The Holy Cross of Broomholme continued to be the successive resort of a number of pilgrims till the year 1223. From Walcote a good road leads us back to the high road at North Walsham, and in our way we first notice

RIDLINGTON, frequently mentioned in writings, on account of its proximity to Broomholme ; but it does not possess any other consideration to recommend it to notice.

WITTON, on our right, its park excepted, has nothing to prevent the prosecution of our excursion.

CROSTWICK lies to the left of Ridlington, and appears to have been in the possession of the Grosses, a very ancient family, some of whose posterity had an agreeable old seat called Crostwick Hall. Adam le Gross, and Reginald his son, were witnesses to deeds made here in the reign of King John.

NORTH WALSHAM. Near this town Bishop Spencer, in 1382, routed certain rebels of this county, under the command of John Lyster, or John the Dyer. In June 1600, a fire broke out here, which in three hours time consumed 118 dwelling-houses, and about five times as many malt-houses, warehouses, barns, stables, &c. the loss being then estimated at 20,000*l*. The market-cross was built by Bishop Thirlby, and afterwards repaired by Bishop Redman, whose arms, with those of his see, are impaled on it.

Walsham at present consists of three streets, forming an irregular triangle. At the junction of these is the parish church, the tower of which fell down in the year 1724. In the chancel is a fine monument, with an effigy, &c. to the memory of Sir William Paston, knt. who died in 1608, aged 80 years. This knight agreed in 1607, with John Key, a freemason of London, to erect and fit up this tomb, with his effigy in armour, five feet and a half long, for which he was to be paid 200*l*. Sir William settled 40*l*. per annum on the free school, and 10*l*. a year on a weekly lecturer.

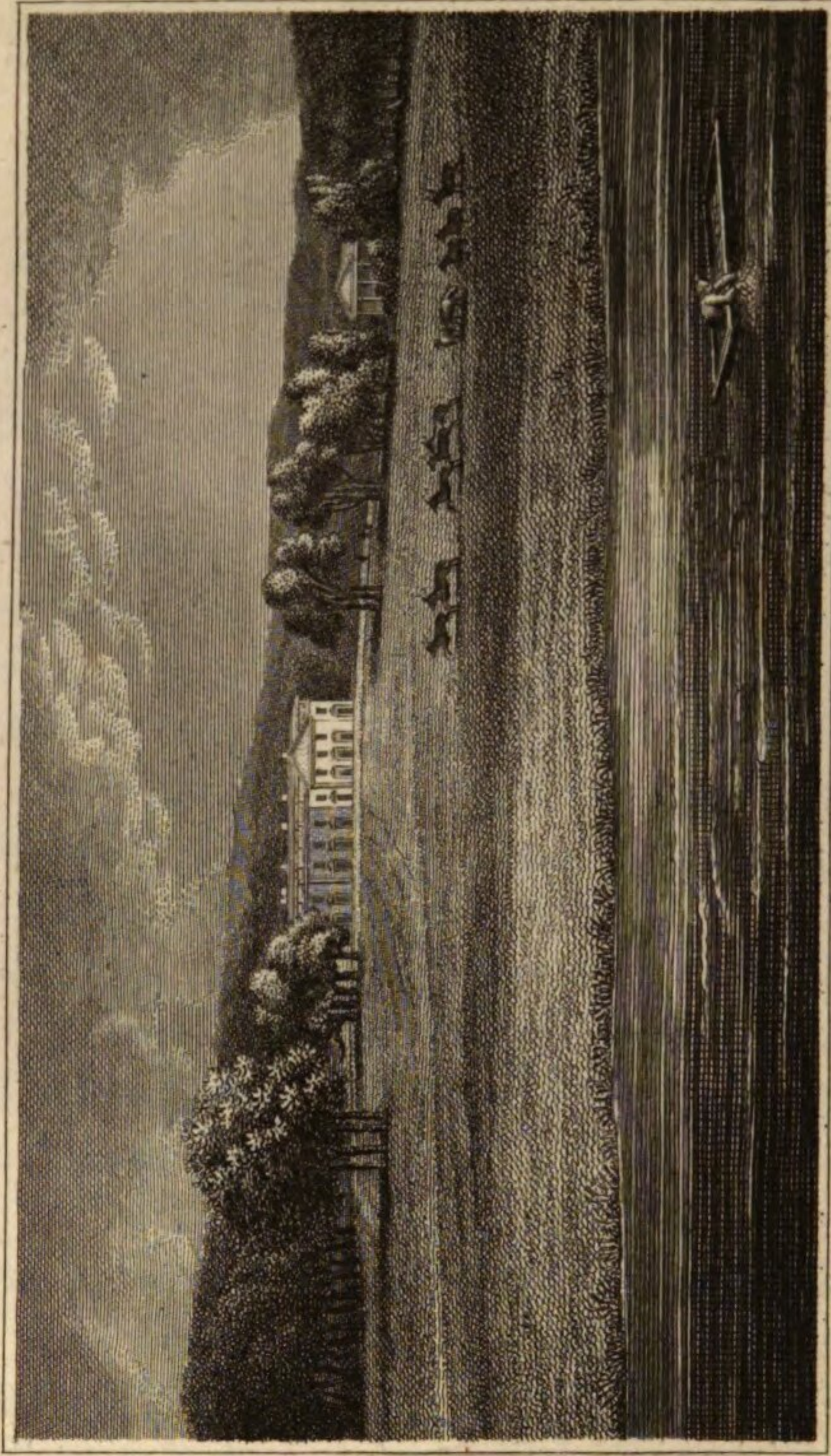
A turnpike-road has been made within a few years from this town to Norwich, from which it is distant 14 miles. Near this town is a seat of Captain Thomas H. Cooper.

Passing through SWAFIELD, which has nothing to claim the particular attention of the traveller, we turn to the right, and pass

EDINGTHORPE, which contains no object of peculiar interest or curiosity, and proceed to the sea-coast at

CASEWIC, or KESWIC: this was a town joining to Bacton. In 1382 the church was standing, and the ruins of it were long visible about a furlong north-east of the priory, between two ways, one leading to Walcote, the other to the sea.

BACTON joins Keswic on the north, and formerly contained the manors of Latimer's and Peches' Hall, and mention is also made of a park at Bacton in an-



Engraved by W. Angell, from a Drawing by J. S. Latimer, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

GUNTON HALL,
The Seat of the R^t Hon. W. Lord Suffield.

NORFOLK.

Pub. March 2, 1839, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

cient times. The arms of Paston appear on the south-east buttress of the church. In 1486 a legacy was left for building the tower.

PASTON lies about a mile further northward. The old hall, belonging to the Paston family, stands near the church, and had two courts; in the inner court is a well. The buttery hatch, with the hall, was standing in 1739; but the chambers over it, and the chapel, were in ruins. Over the door of a great staircase out of the hall the arms of Berry were carved. Sir William Paston, the judge, married a daughter and heir of Sir Edmund Berry. A tomb in the chancel, erected for Lady Catherine Paston, has her effigies, by Mr. Nicholas Stone, a famous statuary, who executed this work in 1629, for which he was paid 340*l*. “and was very extraordinarily entertained.” He also erected a monument for Sir Edmund, which cost 100*l*. Clement Paston, esq. and Beatrice his wife, were buried here in 1419; also the father and mother of Sir William the judge.

Passing the inconsiderable villages of Knapton, Trunch, and Bradfield, we rejoin the road at

ANTINGHAM. The ancient family of de Antingham was enfeoffed of this manor under the Bigods. In the porch of the church here was the image of St. Margaret. On our left is Suffield and Suffield Hall. Proceeding northward, we next arrive at

GUNTON. The church here, rebuilt by the late Sir William Harbord, bart. is a handsome structure, having a beautiful modern portico.

Gunton Hall stands in the midst of an extensive park and plantations. The mansion was considerably improved, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, in the year 1785. Its proprietor, the Right Honourable Harbord Harbord, was created Lord Suffield in the year 1786.

At a considerable distance to the left are the villages of Gimmingham and Mundesley.

GIMMINGHAM. To the manor-house belonged formerly a very large hall, supported by several pillars; and the custom and rule was, that no tenant, socman, &c. should go beyond that pillar, which was appointed for their station and degree, another instance of the miscalled liberty supposed to have been enjoyed by our forefathers.

MUNDESLEY. The beach here seems to be equally as good for bathing as at Cromer, and the walking much the same, the tide at low water leaving a fine firm sand. From this beach to the southward the land at Happisburgh is seen protruding into the sea, forming a promontory, and, with the two light-houses, this has a good effect. Proceeding along the sea-shore, in a north-west direction, we arrive at

TRIMMINGHAM. The church here, in the popish times, was said to contain the head of St. John the Baptist, to which pilgrimages, great worship, and offerings were made. In one of the will books of Norwich is that of Alice Cook of Horstead: "It I will have a man to go a pilgrimage to St. John, his heyde of Trimmyngham." Turning from this place towards the road, we pass

SOUTH REPPS. On a hill, about a mile through this village, are the ruins of an old beacon, which command a noble prospect both of sea and land. In clear weather Yarmouth and Norwich are very discernible; and hence is certainly one of the most extensive views in Norfolk. We now rejoin the road at

THORPE MARKET. The church, recently rebuilt at the expense of Lord Suffield, attracts notice from the simplicity and elegance of its construction, by Mr. Wood the architect. It consists of only a single aisle, and is composed of flint and freestone. At each of the four angles is a turret, and each side is terminated by a gable, surmounted by a stone cross. The inside has a corresponding neatness; and the windows are orna-

mented with *modern stained glass*. Here are three family monuments, taken from the old church, and a small one has been raised to the memories of Robert and William Morden, who were brothers to Lord Suffolk. The chancel is divided from the body of the church by a light gothic wainscot screen, and an equal portion of the west end by a similar one. The upper parts of each are decorated with modern glass paintings; the subject of those at the chancel end are, in the centre the dove sent forth from the ark, and on each side Moses and Aaron. In the centre of the corresponding screen are the king's arms well painted upon copper, and on each side those of his lordship's family in painted glass. The pulpit is placed against the north wall, and is entered from a staircase in the vestry; on each side is a door, over which are painted the symbolical figures of St. Mark and St. Luke in bas relief.

Mr. Bartell observes, "the greatest defect in this building is in the disposition of the stained glass, in the windows, which, instead of being concentrated in such a manner as to throw that devotional gloom into the church which produces such an evident effect upon the mind, and which appears to me to have been the original intention of stained or painted glass, is scattered over the whole window in small pieces, greens, purples, reds, and yellows, regularly intermixed with white, giving to the whole an appearance of too much gaiety, independent of the unpleasant manner in which, in a day when the sun is bright, the different colours of the glass are reflected over the church upon the persons of the congregations.

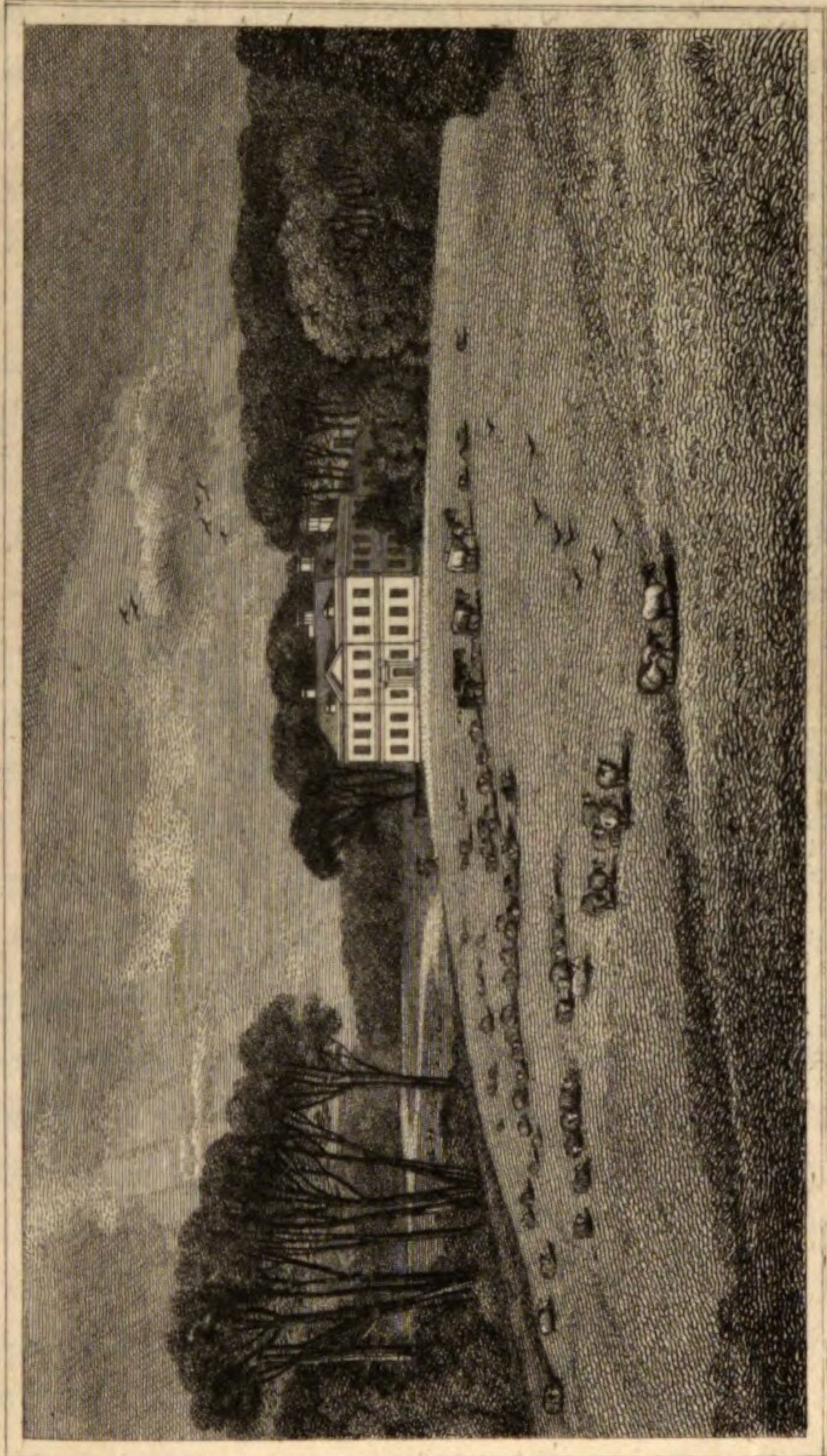
"As in all human efforts there will be some defects, so it happens that Thorpe Church is not entirely free; but what few there are, are so well counterbalanced by its beauties, which are numerous, that it cannot

fail to be in a high degree worthy the attention of the curious."

About three miles to the left of Thorpe,

HANWORTH, the seat of Robert L. Doughton, esq. is an excellent modern house, two miles from Gunton, situated in a small but very pleasant park, well wooded, and laid out with taste. A farm-house and the parish church, which stand on an eminence, both in the park, are striking objects as seen from the road.

ROUTON is about two miles from Thorpe. A remarkable contract seems to have been made here in the reign of Edward II. between Cecilia, the widow of Sir Robert de Ufford, and the Abbot of Coxford, reciting, that whereas the abbot and convent held the water-mill of Thorpe Market, with the pond, pool, and causeway, situate in Thorpe and in Roughton, and had, by grant of her ancestors, free augmentation of water upon her land in that place, by certain bounds on the west head of the pool and causeway, to mend the bank, paying 7s. per annum, as appears by a fine levied; and there being then a controversy between her and the prior for the *herbage* growing on the pool, the causeway, and the fishing of the pool, she, for the soul's health of her late husband, released to the prior and his successors all her right in the herbage and soil within certain bounds then set out, saving for herself and tenants a free way over the causeway, the herbage thereof, and liberty to make a bar to prohibit carts going, but the prior's cart to go freely; and if the water in the pool should rise higher than it ought, her miller to have the liberty to let the water out; and if her cattle went within the bounds, they were not to be impounded, but to be drove away. Witnesses, Sir John de Thorp, Sir Richard de Weyland, William de Peyvere, and John, son of John de Repps. About a mile further northward, on the left of the road, is



Engraved by J. Alton from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Excavations through Norfolk.

HAINWORTH HALL,

The Seat of R. L. Doughty Esq.

NORFOLK.

Pub. & Merch. 1819 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

NORTH REPPS. The cottage at this place, or, as it is sometimes called, the hermitage, is the residence of B. Gurney, esq. The house, which is flinted and thatched, is fitted up with the greatest neatness and simplicity; and the stained glass, that occupies the upper part of the arches of the windows, throws a very pleasing light into the apartments. The parlour commands a good view of the sea, and is appropriately decorated with marine shells, prints, &c.

On an eminence called *Tolls Hill*, not far from this house, is a very fine echo. This spot, literally speaking, is only a small portion of a range of hills running towards Syderstrand. By descending into the vallies, the hills are brought to fold over each other; and the land between them and the ocean forming the second distance, interspersed with cottages and a few trees, (the latter scarce articles near the sea,) renders the situation in many parts very picturesque.

About a mile and a half further to the left, is

FELBRIGGE, OR FELBRIDGE. Roger Bigod had a grant of this lordship on the expulsion of two freemen belonging to Girth, the brother of Harold, who were slain with him at the battle of Hastings; and the ancient family of De Felbrigg assumed their name from this town, of which they were enfeoffed by the Bigods at the conquest. Sir Roger de Felbrigg, alias Bigod, had a fair and market here in the 28th of the reign of Edward III. Sir Simon Felbrigg was standard bearer to Richard II. In the eighth of Henry V. he and Sir William Beauchamp, Sir John Beaufoe, knts. and Robert Lovell, esq. were appointed commissioners to muster 500 men at arms, and 1000 archers, to be commanded by Hugh Courtenay, Earl of Devonshire, and the Lord Botreaux, for the protection of the narrow seas. The manor of Felbrigg being left by Sir Simon Felbrigg to be sold after the death of his wife Catherine, Lord Thomas Scales, one of his trustees, bought

the reversion of it of his executors, and afterwards sold it to John Wymondham, esq. which John had also a lease of it from the Lady Catherine; he and his wife, the Lady Margery, relict of Sir Edward Hastings of Elsing in Norfolk, daughter of Sir Robert Clifford of Bokenham Castle in the said county, lived here, when Sir John Felbrigg, eldest son of Sir George Felbrigg, made a forcible entry in the absence of her husband, and threatened to set the house on fire, she having locked herself up in a room to keep possession, and at last dragged her out by the hair of the head, and took possession himself. John Wymondham, however, having obtained the king's order to Thomas Montgomery, esq. sheriff of the county, to be put in possession, he came to an agreement, and Wymondham paying to Sir John 200 marks, he released all his right and claim to his lordship; and in the 39th of Henry VI. Sir John and his wife conveyed it to John Wymondham by fine. John Windham, the son and heir of the former, was retained by Sir John Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, in the beginning of the reign of Edward IV. In 1487 he was at the battle of Stoke, and there knighted by Henry VII; but in May 1503, he, with Sir James Tyrrel, were beheaded as traitors to the king, being charged with conspiracy in favour of Edmund de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, and was buried in the church of Austin Friars, in London. Sir Thomas Windham was his son and heir.

The Windhams are a family of great antiquity, and took their name from Windham, a considerable market town in Norfolk. Alward de Wymondham was a witness to the foundation charter of William de Albini, founder of Wymondham Priory, in the reign of Henry I. John de Wimundham, and Beatrix his wife, held lands in Kirby Beadon, &c. in Norfolk, in the 28th of Edward III.

William Windham was colonel of the Norfolk mili-

tia, and author of a treatise for the use of that corps. His indefatigable application to study accelerated his death in 1761, leaving his son a minor.

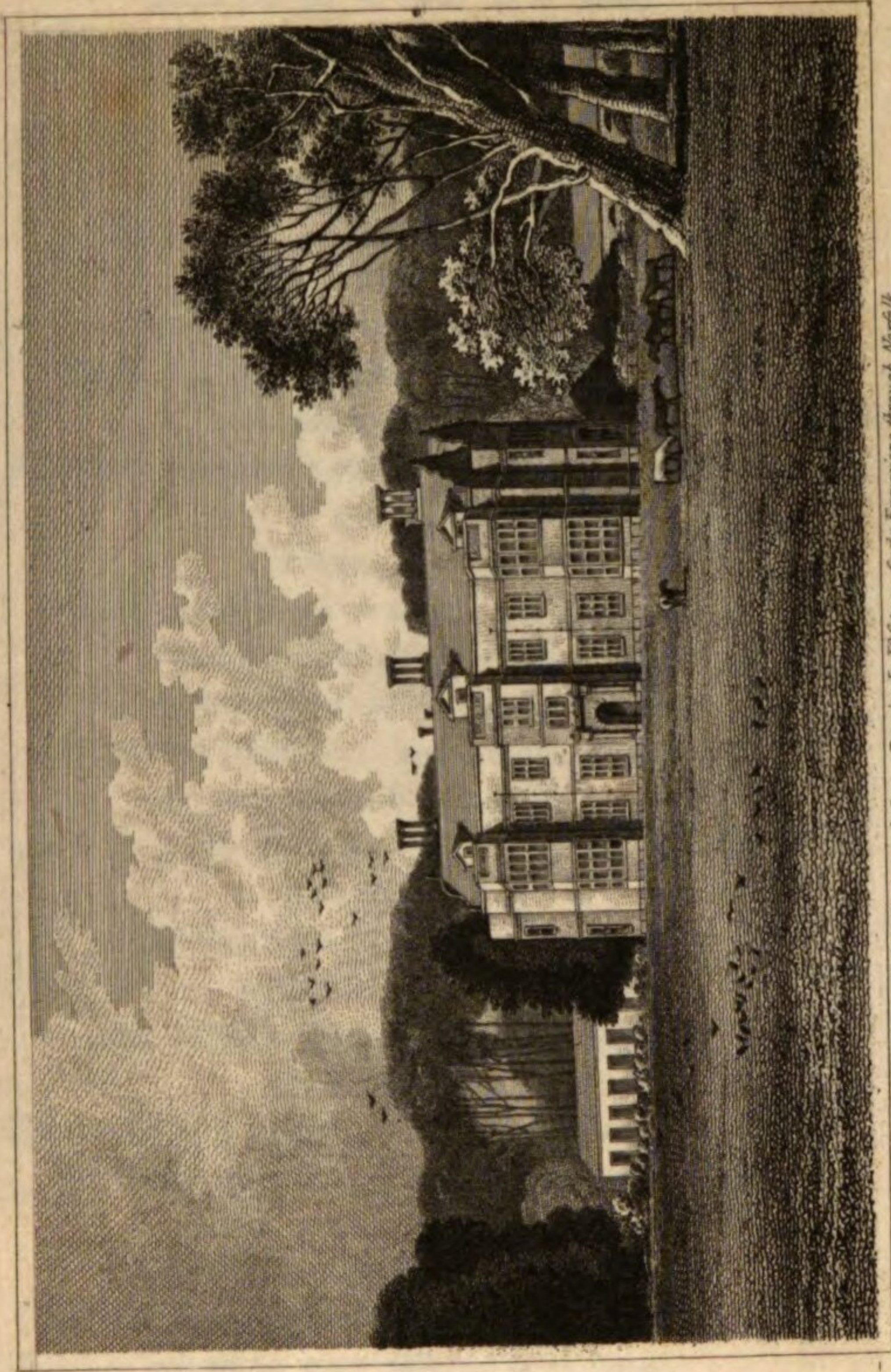
On the pavement of the church of Felbrigg, near the pulpit, lies a large marble grave-stone: beneath an arched canopy in brass is the portraiture of Sir Simon de Felbrigg, knight of the garter, in complete armour, treading on a lion couchant, with his hands erect, in an attitude of prayer. Between his right arm stands erect on a staff the standard of King Richard II. upon which are the arms of Edward the Confessor, a cross fleury, between five martlets, impaling France and England quarterly. King Richard is said to have esteemed the Confessor as his tutelary saint; and a few years past, Blomefield observes, "on a visit I paid to the late Dr. Symonds of Bury, he shewed me a large shield of stone, taken up lately out of the ruins of that abbey, with the said arms curiously carved on it."

On the upper part of each arm of Sir Simon Felbrigg, by the shoulder, is the shield of St. George *argent*, a cross *gules*; on his right side hangs a dagger, on his left a large broad-sword, from a belt embossed and gilt as his spurs are; and on his left leg the garter, all in brass. In a similar arch, with a canopy curiously wrought, is his lady on his left side, in a close vest, and a cloak over it, hands erect, &c.; about her head a sort of coronet, and on each side of it a large lustre of jewels, in the form of a rose, about her temples. On the summit, between the middle of the pillar of the canopy work, are two shields, one with the arms of St. Edward, impaling quarterly France and England; the other, St. Edward, with the same quartering, being the arms of King Richard II. impaling quarterly in the first and fourth *argent*, a spread eagle with two heads *sable*, crowned *or*; in the second and third a lion rampant, being the arms of his queen

Anne. On the middle pillar of the canopy work are the arms of this knight, a lion saliant, impaling a spread eagle, the arms of his lady; and below that, on each side of the pillar, is a fetter-lock, his badge, which was also used by the house of York and by King Edward IV. His supporters are gone: these are said to have been two lions; and his crest, a plume of peacocks' feathers, and sometimes a garb *argent*, banded ermine, in a coronet, *or*: the family also used the crest of the lion's head encased in the bow of a fetter-lock.

Felbrigg, the seat of the late Right Honourable William Windham, stands at the eastern extremity of a high tract of land called Felbrigg and Sherringham Heaths, and is ranked among the first situations in Norfolk. It is three miles from Cromer, delightfully situated in the bosom of extensive and venerable woods. The oak, the beech, and the Spanish chesnut, seem congenial to the soil; and the form of the ground, which consists of gently rising hills and vales, is admirably constituted to shew to the greatest advantage the masses of light and shade produced by such a combination. Mr. Windham's improvements were not merely confined to his own demesne, but extended much further. Felbrigg particularly experienced their beneficial effects. The common field land has been inclosed, and converted into arable or wood lands, by which means the property and population of the district were much increased.

The parish church of Felbrigg, situated in the park, is a pleasing object, particularly when a person takes his station near the house, which is partly of the time of Henry VIII.: the fore-ground is graced by a long avenue of oaks and beeches. Besides the fine brass already described, representing Sir Simon de Felbrigg, we have to notice a monument put up in this church in memory of the late Right Honourable William



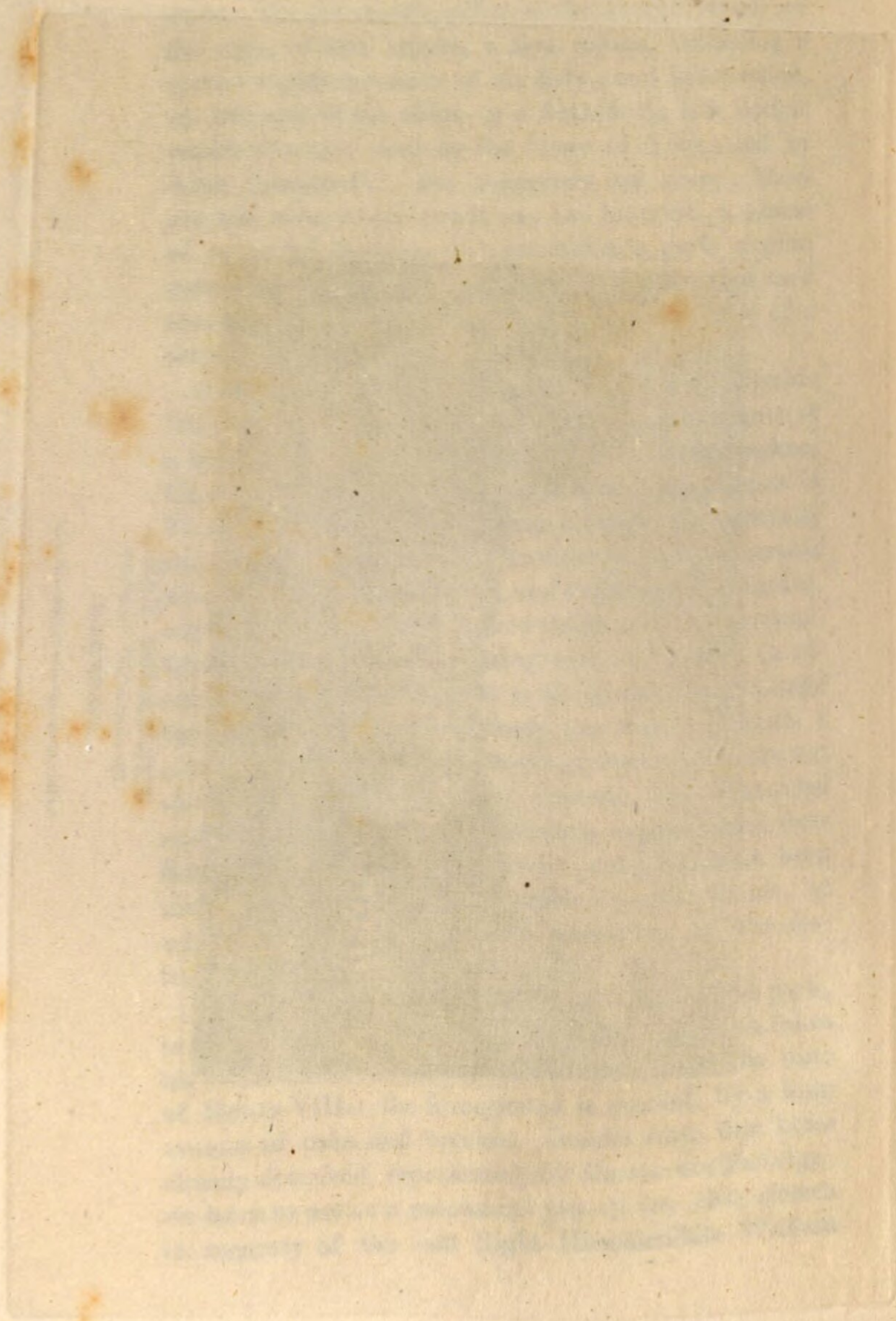
Engraved by J. H. B. Knowlton, from a Drawing by J. C. G. for the Excursions through Norfolk.

FELBRIGGE HALL.

The Seat of Mrs. Windham.

NORFOLK.

Pub. & Decided by L. G. G. & Co. Paternoster Row.



Windham, executed by Nollekens, which is decorated with his bust, and has on the cenotaph the following inscription :

Sacred to the Memory of the
Right Honourable WILLIAM WINDHAM, esq.
of Felbrigge, in this county,

Born the 14th of May, O. S. 1750,

Died the 4th of June, N. S. 1810.

He was the only son of William Windham, esq.

by Sarah, relict of Robert Lukin, esq.

He married, in 1798, Cecilia, third daughter of the
late Commodore Forrest,

who erects this Monument in grateful and
tender remembrance of him.

During a period of twenty-six years,

He distinguished himself in Parliament by his
eloquence and talents,

And was repeatedly called to the highest offices of
the State.

His views and councils

were directed more to raising the glory than in-
creasing the wealth of his country.

He was, above all things, anxious to

preserve, untainted, the National Character,

and even those National Manners

which long habit had associated with that character.

As a Statesman,

He laboured to exalt the courage,

to improve the comforts,

and ennoble the profession of a Soldier.

As an individual,

He exhibited a model of those qualities which denote
the most accomplished and enlightened mind.

Frank, generous, unassuming,

intrepid, compassionate, and pious.

He was so highly respected, even by those from

whom he most differed in opinion,

that though

much of his life had passed in political contention,

He was accompanied to the grave

by the sincere and unqualified regret of his

Sovereign and his Country.

Two miles from Felbrigg are the ruins of Beckham old church. The walls of the middle aisle and chancel are standing, and also the south porch. Beautiful fragments of the old gothic windows, in different states of decay, are seen peeping through the ivy which mantles over the mouldering walls in a most luxuriant manner.

Changing the *elms* of Mr. Gray to *oaks*, his lines exactly apply to Beckham churchyard.

Beneath these rugged elms, that yew tree's shade,
Where heaves the turf in many a mould'ring heap,
Each in his narrow cell for ever laid,
The rude forefathers of the hamlet sleep.

AYLMERTON lies about a mile to the north-west of Felbrigg Park. The festivities of the Romish church seem to have distinguished this obscure village in no small degree during the dark ages. The church is dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Here was the Sepulchre light, that of Allhallows, St. Mary and St. Nicholas, and the men's plough light. St. John's drinking at Midsummer, Rogation drinking, and on Allhallows Thursday. It is to be observed, that the light, in many churches called the plough light, was maintained before some image by the old and young who were employed in husbandry. These persons on Plough Monday had a feast, and went about with a plough and some dancers to collect money towards their light.

Proceeding still farther northward, we pass East and West Runton, and observe a village called

BEESTON, the third of this name, which we have noticed in our present excursion, situated on the sea shore, about five miles to the west of Cromer.

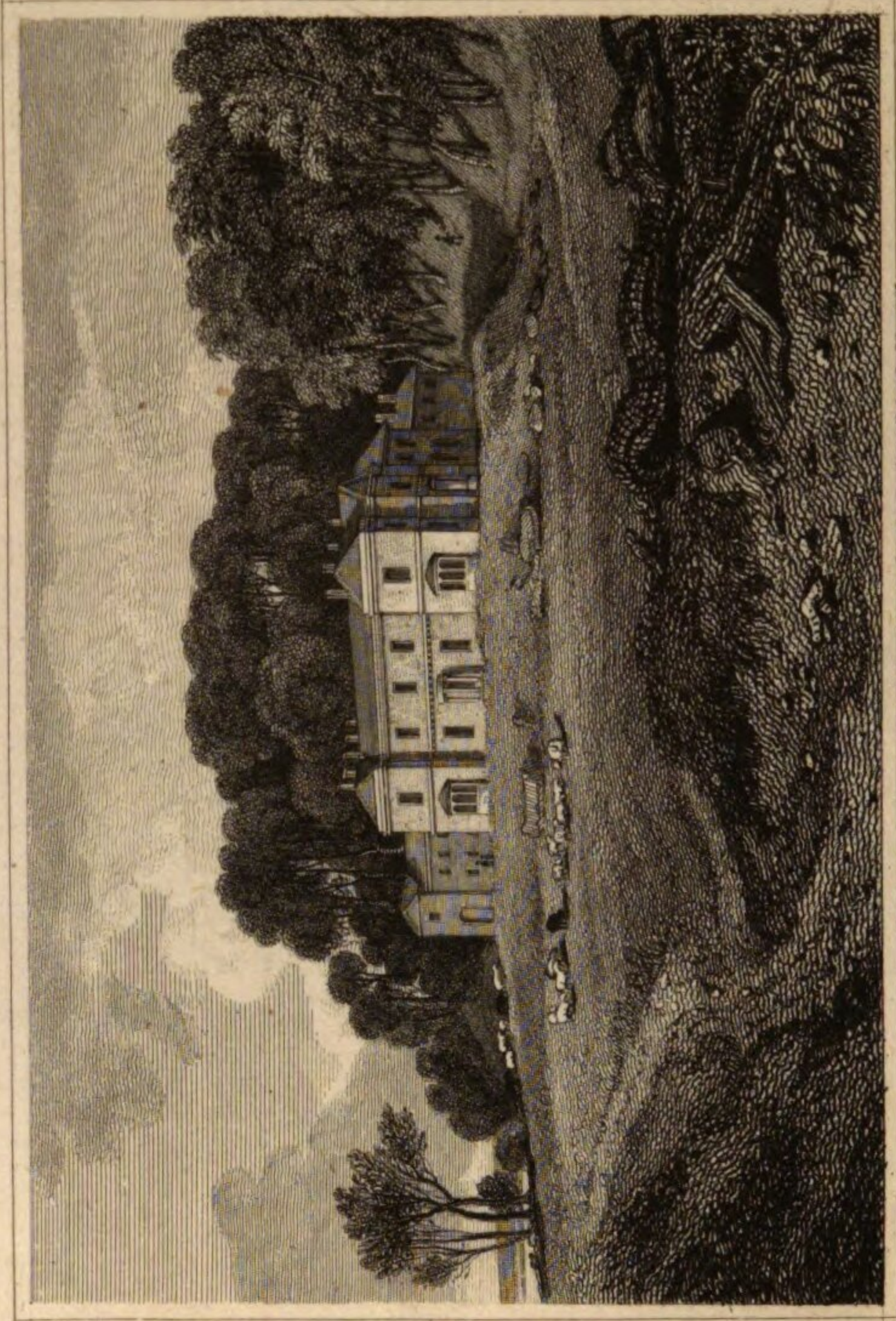
Beeston Priory. The remains of this ancient structure are extremely picturesque. A small tower, and the whole of the west gable wall of the church, are



Engraved by E. Roberts, from a Drawing by J. S. Corman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Remains of
BEESTON PRIORY,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d June 1. 1818, by Longman & C^o. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by W. Wallis from a Drawing by J. S. Leman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

SHERBINGHAM HALL,
The Seat of Abbot Upcher, Esq.

NORFOLK.

Pub. & Printed by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

standing, and having its other parts much broken, of which a great deal remains, it presents a very antique and handsome ruin. This gable, a few years since, was ornamented with a profusion of the finest ivy. The house of Cremer Woodrow, esq. to which the priory belongs, with the barn, stables, and farm-yard, have been injudiciously placed close under its walls. In fact, some small part of the ruins are converted into out-houses.

Beeston Priory was founded in the reign of King John by Lady Isabel de Cressy, for canons of the order of St. Austin, and dedicated to St. Mary.

Not far from the priory, on the right hand, is a house belonging to C. Cremer, esq. where, through a white gate that leads past the house, the road winds in a very romantic manner between the hills to Felbrigg-heath, upon which are the remains of a beacon; the view from this spot is not altogether so extensive as from the beacon at Trimingham, but more diversified.

Had we proceeded from North Repps along the high road to Cromer, we should have noticed the villages of Sirdestrand and Overstrand, which take their name from being situated on the strand or sea coast.

It seems that the old church of Overstrand had been swallowed up by the sea, as in the last year of Richard II., John Reymes alienated half an acre of land for a churchyard to bury the dead; and in the first year of Henry IV. a patent was granted to build the parish-church thereon, and which, at present, is again partly in ruins. This, however, and the sea, as seen from the North Repps road, are striking objects.

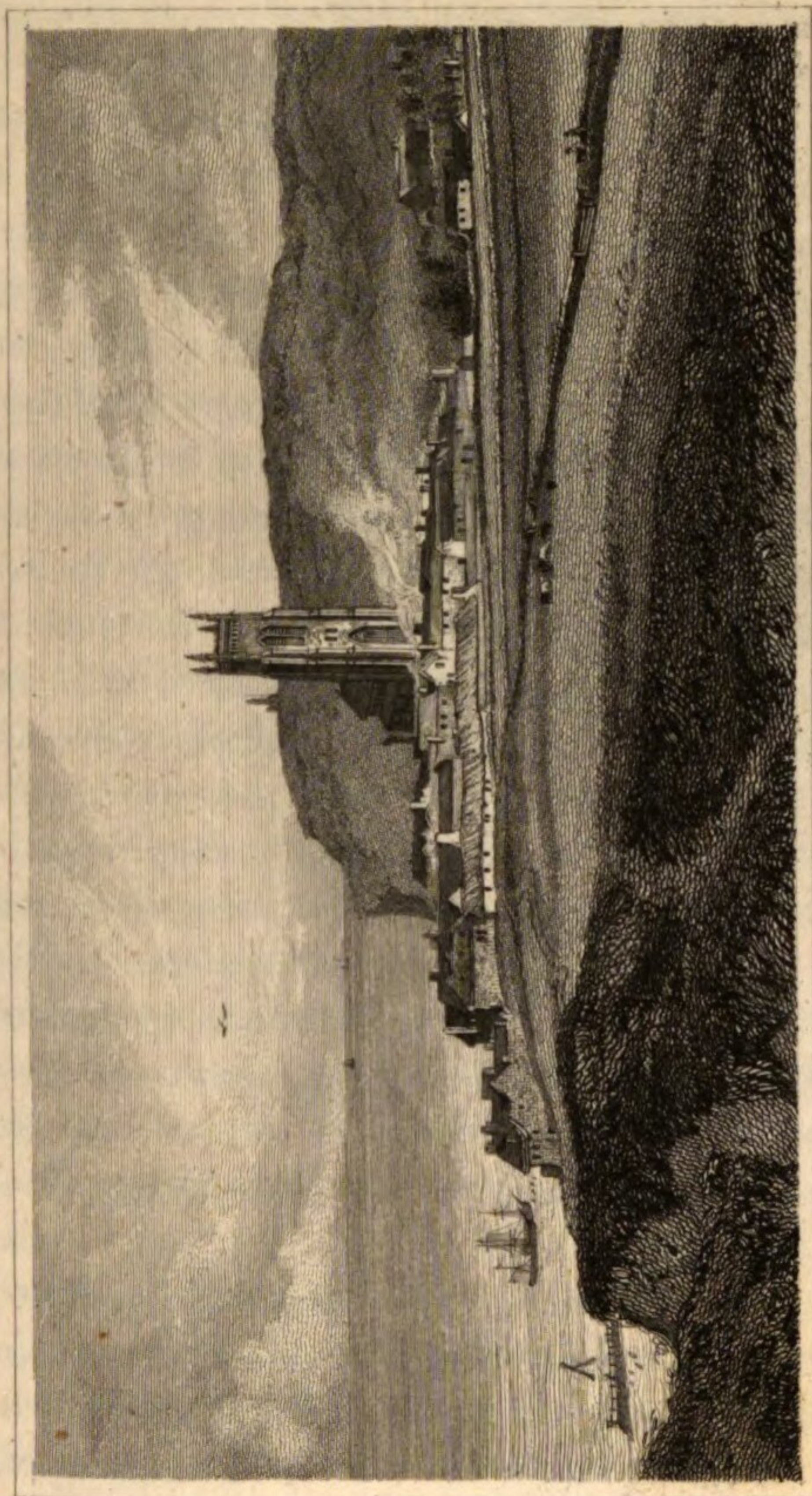
About two miles from this place is

CROMER, about 130 miles from London, situated on the north-east of the county of Norfolk, on the verge of the British ocean, whose encroachments have been so great, that though the town is defended by

cliffs of considerable height, upwards of twenty houses have, at different times in the memory of man, been precipitated into the tide, while the town of Shipden, with its church, dedicated to St. Peter, which lay between this place and the sea, has wholly disappeared, except some masses of a wall, supposed to have belonged to the church.

Look at the smitten cliff,
Stain'd, rugged, gapp'd; deep in earth's hollow'd sides,
Huge caverns scoop'd, and this aerial steep,
Which, but for Ocean, might for ages brav'd
Th' pitiless rage of all the winds of Heaven,
O'er Time itself triumphant, added now
To the flat beach!

The inhabitants of Cromer have been returned at 848, and the number of houses at 170. This place is principally inhabited by fishermen; it has no harbour, yet a considerable trade is carried on, and much coal, tiles, oil-cake, porter, &c. are imported in vessels carrying from sixty to one hundred tons burthen. Corn is also exported. These vessels lie upon the beach, and at ebb-tide carts are drawn alongside to unship their cargoes; when empty, they anchor a little distance from the shore, and reload by means of boats, a measure attended with much inconvenience and expense; as the carts, though drawn by four horses, owing to the steepness of the road up the cliffs, can only carry about half a ton at a time. In this manner they continue passing and repassing till the water flows up to the horses bellies, when they are obliged to desist till the return of the tide. The scene here is much enlivened by shipping; the trade passing and repassing from Newcastle, Sunderland, Scotland, and the Baltic, keeping up a constant change of moving objects. But such is the danger of the coast, that it is always necessary for ships, during bad weather, to keep a good offing; and for this pur-



Engraved by W. Wallis, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotton, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

CROMER, NORFOLK.

Pub. 2 July 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

pose, four or five light-houses are continually burning between this place and Yarmouth, to prevent seamen from running into Cromer Bay.

Though the houses are, in general, indifferent, and the rents high, tolerable accommodations are to be had for strangers who reside here during the bathing season; and these comforts have been much increased since the establishment of some respectable inns, viz. the New Inn, the Hotel, and the Lion.

The public-rooms, a circulating library, &c. with other recent improvements, have contributed to make Cromer much more eligible as a watering-place than formerly, and to this the beautiful variegated scenery in the environs does not a little contribute.

Most strangers pay a visit to the light-house, upon an eminence, about three quarters of a mile to the eastward of the town, and which commands an extensive sea view; the inland prospect is confined by a range of hills forming an amphitheatre nearly round it. The tower, built of brick, is only three moderate stories high, crowned with a lantern lighted by fifteen patent lamps, each placed in a large copper reflector, three feet in diameter, and finely plated in the inside; these placed round an upright axis, are kept in continual motion by machinery wound up every five hours and a half, by which means a set of five reflectors are presented to the eye in a full blaze of light every minute, the axis being three minutes performing its rotation.

The bathing machines, nine in number, are commodious, and the bather is a careful and attentive man. The shore, which is a fine firm sand, not only renders the bathing agreeable, but when the tide retires, presents such a surface for many miles as cannot be exceeded. The sea too is one of those objects that appears to have the constant power of pleasing. Even those who live by the side of it, if their occupation lies

within doors, seldom fail at the leisure hour of noon or eve to pay their respect to it even in the most stormy weather. "Its charms are various and incessant, whether its azure surface is dressed in smiles, or irritated into frowns by the surly northern or eastern blast."

Cromer was first frequented as a watering-place about the year 1785, by two or three families of retired habits, whose report of the beautifully diversified scenery of the neighbourhood, of the simple manners of the inhabitants, and the excellent beach at low water, made others desirous of sharing in this rural enjoyment, who, in a few years, were followed by so many as to have made it quite a fashionable place of resort; but it is not even now so numerously attended as to occasion the inconveniences arising from an overcrowded watering-place. Its visitors are from London, Norwich, and the adjacent counties of Suffolk, Cambridge, and Lincoln. The company is select and respectable, and if retirement be sought for, Cromer will afford this in perfection. The Norwich people mostly frequent Yarmouth, which is a gay, lively place—the Margate of Norfolk. Mr. Hoare, the banker of Lombard-street, and some other persons of fortune, have houses at Cromer, to which they resort in the shooting season.

Some of the houses which let lodgings have a good view of the sea: a house, lately named the *Wellington Inn*, has some of the best private lodgings in the town; it is close to the cliff: but there are no large and splendid apartments in any of the houses: this want of accommodation is, however, amply made up by the civility of the inhabitants.

Fish are scarce at Cromer, except lobsters, which are good but small, and sold at 8*d.* or 9*d.* a pound; when dear, they are called *hanged* lobsters.

Near the cliff is a subscription-room, where are the



Engraved by W. Deedle from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Entrance to the Gallilee of
CROMER CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Pub^d July 1. 1818, by Longman & C^o. Paternoster Row.

daily papers, periodicals, and a small library for light readers. This is pleasantly situated, and the usual morning lounge. Price 2s. 6d. per week, or 6d. a time. There is another circulating library near the church.

The church at Cromer is dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, and is supposed to have been erected in the time of Henry IV. It is a very handsome pile, built with flint and free-stone, consisting of two aisles covered with slate. The tower, which is square, with an embattled top, is a hundred and fifty-nine feet in height. The entrance at the west end is a beautiful specimen of gothic architecture now in ruins, as is the porch on the north side, the chancel, and a chapel. The flinting in many parts of the building is, perhaps, scarcely to be excelled any where for the beauty of its execution. The inside of the church is kept in good repair, and is capable of containing a great number of persons; it is also tolerably well pewed; but except the double row of arches that support the roof and divide the aisles, very little of what it has been remains. A good organ has been added within these few years. The windows, formerly of noble dimensions, and probably decorated with painted glass, are now in a great measure closed up by the hands of the bricklayer. One or two monuments of the Windham and the Ditchall families are all that this church contains. There is a fine view of the surrounding country from the tower.

Cromer Hall, the residence of — Reid, esq. is a respectable old house, and the sequestered walks in the wood near it are delightful. The plantations here are a great ornament to the town of Cromer.

The battery at Cromer occupies a very fine eminence, commanding more than a semicircle, and mounts four eighteen pounders, which, during the late war, were exercised by the Cromer loyal volunteer

artillery; being also well supplied with stores, it afforded excellent protection to the shipping upon this part of the coast, that brought up to it in cases of danger.

EXCURSION IV.

From Norwich through Horsham St. Faith, Stratton Strawless, Hevingham, Marsham, Aylsham, Blicking, Saxthorpe, Briston, Thursford, New Walsingham, and Wighton, to Wells.

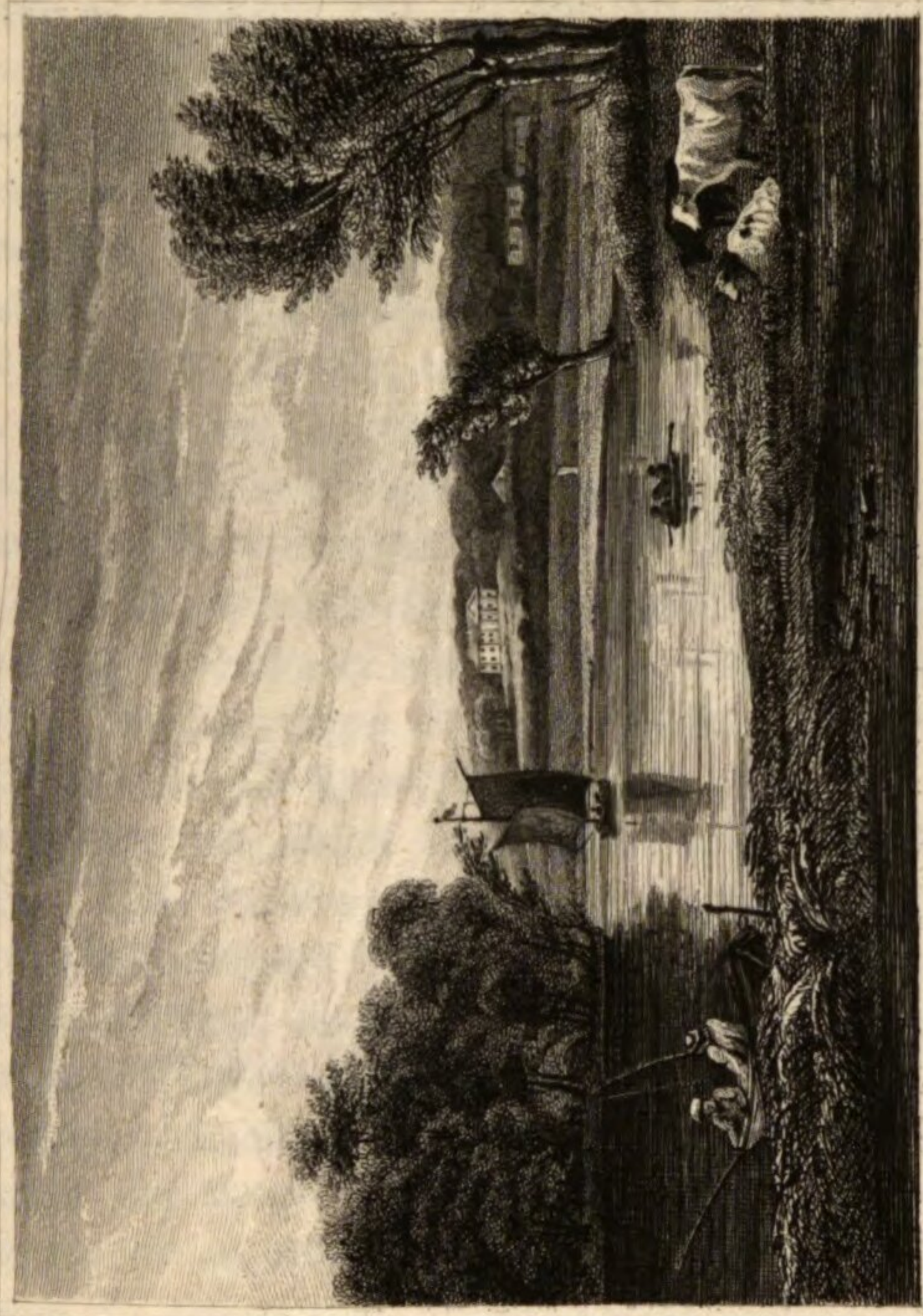
IN a former excursion from Norwich to Yarmouth, we passed through the village of Bracendale, but omitted noticing the pleasant seat of P. M. Martineau, esq. Bracendale is situated on a gentle eminence, commanding some most delightful prospects. The grounds have been greatly improved within the last few years, under the direction of J. Repton, esq.; and the house has received some beneficial alterations from its present worthy possessor, whose antiquarian partialities have induced him to collect together many remnants of the great abbey at Norwich, and some others, with which he has caused to be erected a fine imitation of an ancient chapel, that contains several votive offerings from friends. A book, which is kept here for the insertion of the names of visitors, has several beautiful original poems in it, the inspiration of the Muse, assisted by the local situation of the building, which stands in a finely sequestered spot and the approach to it is decorated with ancient crosses, and other relics of former ages.



Engraved by T. Ranson from a drawing by J. Thistle for the Excursions through Norfolk.

BRACENDALE.
The Seat of P. Martineau Esq.
NORFOLK.

Pub. & Sold at 18. B. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by W. Wells from a Drawing by Thorne for the Excursions through Norfolk.

BRACONDALE,
The Seat of P. M. Martineau, Esq.
NORFOLK.

Published July 1838, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

On leaving Norwich, on our present excursion, we pass *Catton* on the right, a mile from the road. This is a very pleasant village, and although not equal to that of *Thorpe* for want of water, still it forms a retreat from the city for a number of respectable families, and has many good houses. We observe here the seats of *Jeremiah Ives, esq.* *Sir Edward Berry*, one of the gallant heroes of the Nile, *Catton Lodge*, and the residences of some of the most opulent merchants and bankers of Norwich, whose ornamental plantations add much to the beauty of the country on this side of Norwich. We now proceed to

HORSHAM ST. FAITH, about four miles from Norwich. Here was a priory of Benedictine Monks, founded by *Robert de Cadomo*, Lord of *Horsford*, and *Sibilla* his wife, in the year 1105. A hospital of the Knights Templars was also established in this parish, and in the churchyard was a cross. *Hugh de Cressi* possessed the privileges of a fair, which is still held here on October 17 for cattle, &c.

DRAYTON lies about three miles to the left of *St. Faith's*. Here is *Drayton Lodge*. On the pedestal of the cross in this town is an inscription in French, nearly illegible, offering pardon in exchange for prayers for the souls of *William de Bellemont* and his wife.

HORSFORD is about a mile to the left of *St. Faith's*, rather to the north. Near this village are the site, moat, &c. of an ancient castle, which belonged to the lords of the manor who obtained their name from the place. The church is a small plain building of one aisle, a chancel, a chapel, and a square tower.

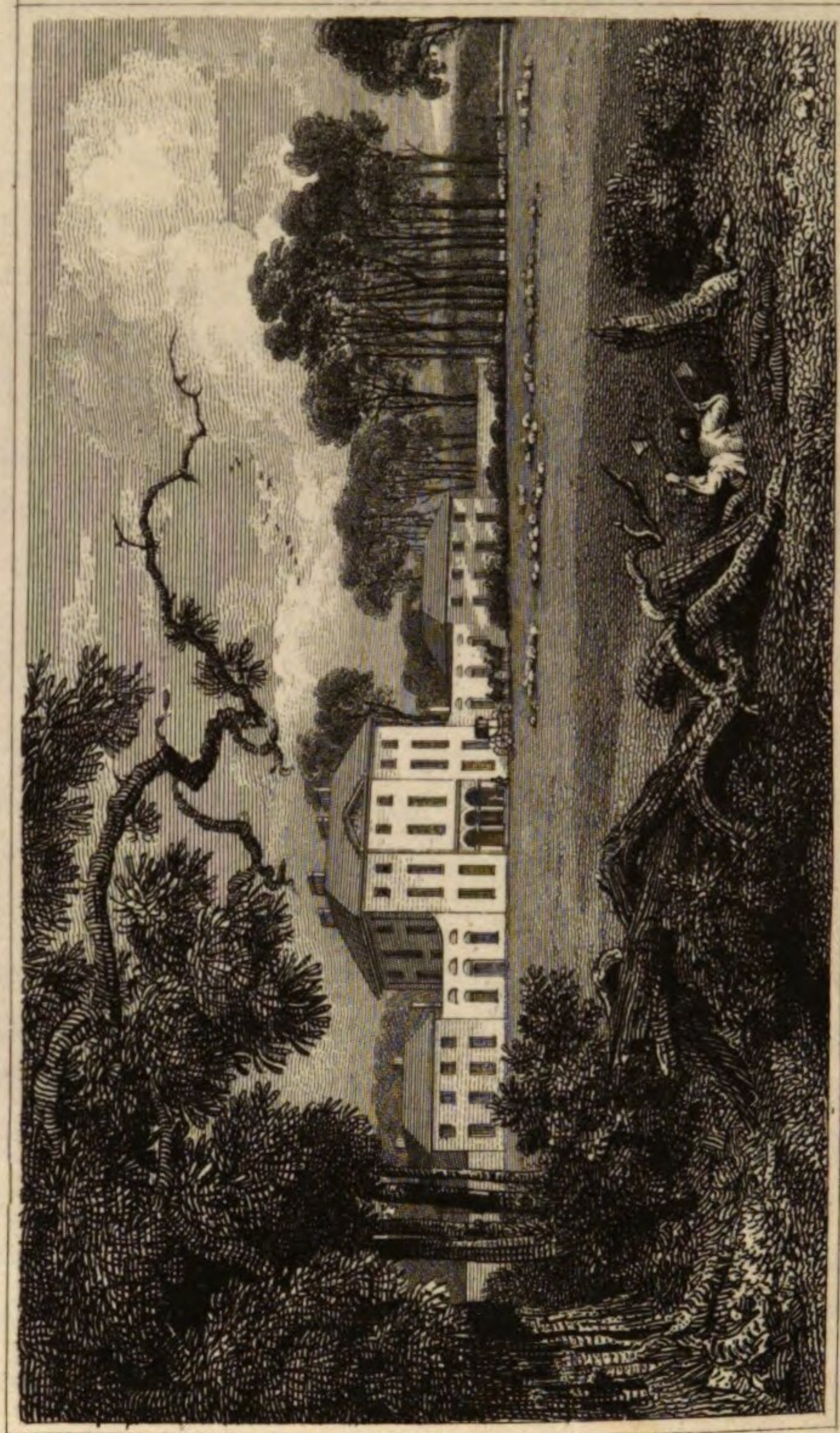
ATTLEBRIDGE lies four miles farther to the left. In this village, near the river, was formerly an hermitage. During the popish times, hermitages were generally seated by the side of great roads and bridges; this was called *Walsingham Way*. From this place we rejoin

the road by passing the village of Felthorp; and on turning to the right pass Horstead Hall, and observe

GREAT HAUTBOIS. This is commonly called Hobbies church. The steeple of the church is round; the nave and the chancel are leaded; it stands near the river, but has no monuments at present. Formerly this church contained the famous image of St. Theobald, commonly called St. Tibbald of Hobbies. The fame of its miracles caused many pilgrimages to be made here. Here was also a chantry founded and endowed by John Parham, and the hospital of St. Mary, commonly called God's House, at the head of Hobbies Causeway, was founded about 1235 by Sir Peter de Alto Bosco, for the reception of travellers and poor people. This house was licensed by Pope Alexander IV. to have a chapel, bell, and proper chaplain.

HORSTEAD is on a line with Great Hautbois, about a mile to the south. The roof of this church, Blomefield observes, is ornamented with black eagles, the arms of the Emperor of Germany; and in this church was the light of King Henry VI., who was esteemed as a saint, as appears from the Will Book, called Register Wight, Norw. p. 499, Alice Cook of this place, wife of Robert Cook, wills to have a man to go upon several pilgrimages, viz. to St. Margaret of Horstede; to our Lady of Refham; to Seynte Spyrite; to St. Parnell of Stratton; to St. Leonard without Norwich; to St. Wandrede of Byskley; to the Holy Rood of Crostewheyte, &c. From Horstead, returning towards the high road, we pass *Haynford Hall*, and on the high road, about eight miles from Norwich, arrive at

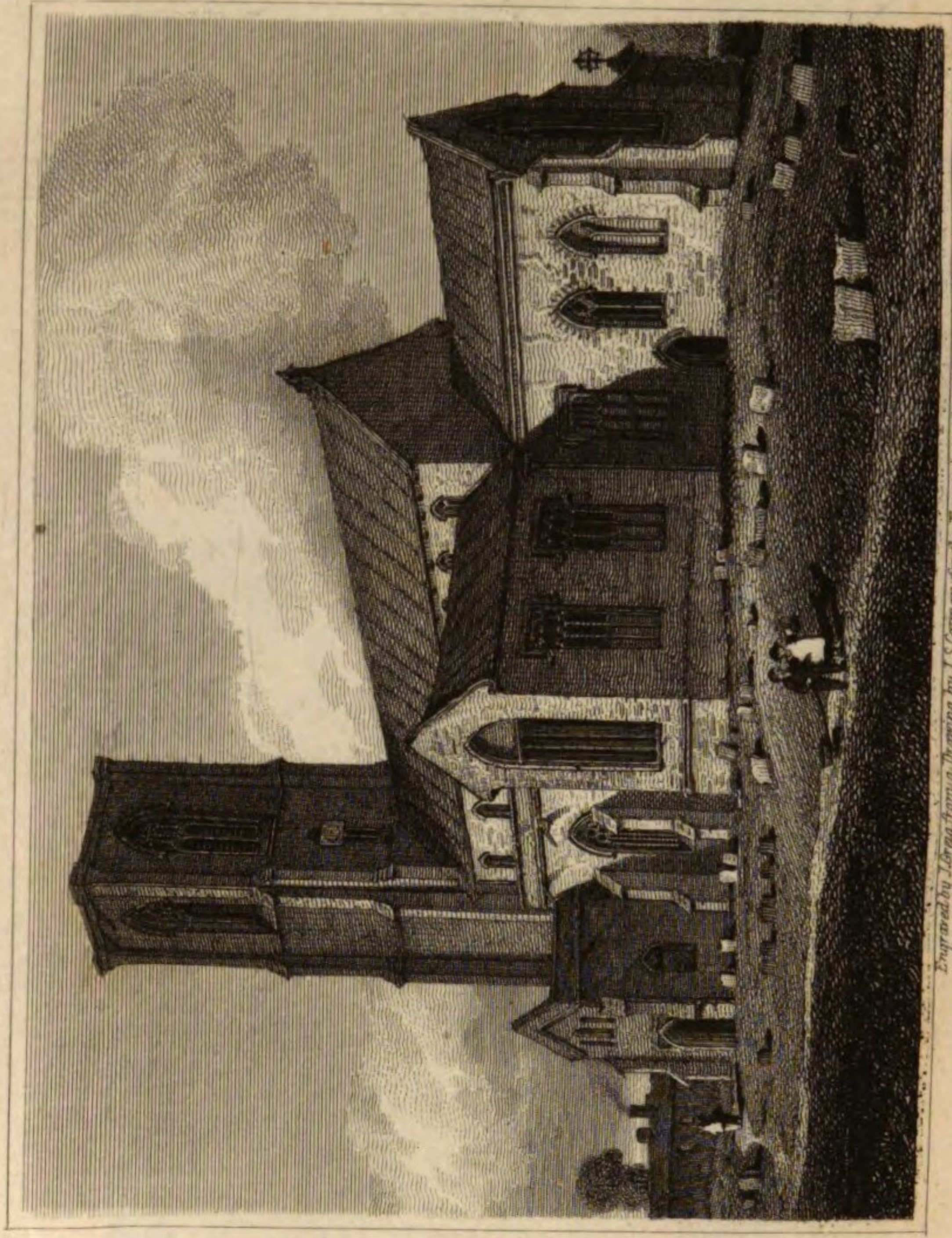
STRATTON STRAWLESS. This is supposed to have been the *stratum* or street that led to the Roman settlement at Brampton; but during the last centuries it has borne the present distinction on account of other



Engraved by T. H. H. from a Drawing by J. S. G. for the Excursions through Norfolk.

STRATTON HALL,
The Seat of R. Marsham, Esq.
NORFOLK.

Pub. June 1, 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by Lithy, from a Drawing by A. S. Lennan, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**CAWSTON CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub^d Sep^r 1848 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

Strattons, as Stratton Parva, &c. The church here contains a number of monuments and inscriptions, and some curious stained glass. This edifice, dedicated to St. Margaret, had two gilds in it before the reformation; one was kept in the church to the honour of St. Margaret, the other in the south aisle chapel to the Virgin Mary. Here also were images of the several saints with lights burning before them in service time; the principal image was that of St. Margaret, and always, as such, stood in the east chancel wall on the north side of the altar, so that the officiating priest stood directly under it. The nave of this church is ancient, and in an arch under the north wall, lies its founder, sculptured in Derbyshire marble, cross legged, and in mail, his belt and other accoutrements by his side. Mr. Blomefield supposes this to have been the representation of Ralf de Stratton, the last of that name, who was lord and patron here.

Here is *Stratton Hall*, the seat of R. Marsham, esq. Having proceeded to *Hevingham*, an inconsiderable village on our left, we observe

HAVERINGLAND. This manor was very early in the possession of Earl Godwin, and formerly contained the priory of Mountjoy; to this priory the De Giney family were special benefactors. The north aisle of the parish church was built by Sir Robert de Bilney, who was buried under a marble grave stone, ornamented with his effigies in brass, and around them an inscription in French. The priory of Mountjoy was for canons regular of St. Austin.

Haveringland Hall is situated here.

CAWSTON lies about two miles to the north of Haveringland. The church is a noble pile of freestone; the fine square tower contains six bells. Here is a nave, two aisles, two transept chapels, a north chancel chapel, and a north vestry and a south porch. The whole of this fabric, the north aisle excepted, was

built by Michael de la Pole and Catherine his wife. The chapel in the north transept has the image of St. Edmund in its east window, by which it seems to have been dedicated to that king. In sinking a cellar at Cawston in the year 1728, a brass coin of the Empress Faustina was dug up. Here is *Booton Hall*, the seat of — Howlett, esq.; and about a mile farther north is *Sall House*, the residence of R. P. Jodrell, esq. We now rejoin the road at MARSHAM. Here is *Marsham Hall*. *Rippon Hall* is about a mile to the southward.

BRAMPTON, or Brantuna, is adjacent to Marsham. Mr. Blomefield has no doubt that this is a town of Roman origin, taking its name from the bodies that were so frequently burned here according to the Roman custom. The Norfolk historian totally dissents from those who suppose Brampton to have been a Roman garrison, or place of great strength, as there are no remains of building, camp, or any thing of that kind. Nor was it the custom of the Romans to have their burial places in stations and camps; though near these burial places there was a fixed habitation or town for the convenient reception of those that attended the funeral rites of their friends. Accordingly the town of Burgh is only divided from this by the river Bure.

In 1667 Sir Thomas Browne published an account of some urns found in a large arable field lying between Buxton and Brampton, but in Brampton parish, and very near to Oxnead Park, where Mr. Blomefield also discovered several in his time, he observes, that the numbers of bones dug up plainly shew that it was a noted burial place. “ Dr. Browne says that none were found above three quarters of a yard in the ground, but I could not find one a foot deep, being all so fleetly covered with earth, that they are all injured and cracked by the plough going over them. The doctor’s observation from the urns, that the country hath not been all woodland, is very right: but that the

earth hath little varied its surface by being constantly ploughed doth not appear so to me; for I cannot imagine but it hath sunk in its surface at least a foot since these urns were deposited there." After making several other observations upon the sizes and colours of the Roman urns, he remarks that coins are always rare in burial places, otherwise than in the urns, though so very common in the Roman camps. Mr. Blomefield saw a fair piece of pure gold that was found here in the hands of a Mr. Munnings, a grocer of Norwich, with this,

D N Constantins. Max. Augustus,

And on its obverse,

Gloria, Rei Publicae. Tes. Vot XXX Mult XXXX.

"Some persons digging at a little distance from where they found the urns, happened upon the following work; it was square, about two yards and a quarter on each side; the wall or outward part, a foot thick, red, and looked like brick, but was solid, and without mortar or cement, being of one whole piece, so that it seemed to be made and burnt in the place it stood in; in this were thirty-two holes of about an inch and a half diameter, and two above a quarter of a circle in the east and west sides. Upon two of the holes on the east side were placed two pots with their mouths downward; by these holes the work appeared hollow below, and in that was contained about a barrel of water soaked in from the earth. The upper part being broke and opened, they found a floor about two feet below; and then digging onward, three floors, successively under one another, at a foot and a half distance, the stones being of a slaty and not bricky substance. In the partitions some pots were found, but broken by the workmen's hard blows in breaking

the stones ; and in the last partition but one, a large pot with a very narrow mouth and short ears, of the capacity of fourteen pints ; it laid in an inclining posture close by, and somewhat under a kind of arch in the solid wall. By the care of the person who employed the workmen, it was taken up whole, almost full of water, clean, and without smell, which being poured out, there still remained in the pot a great lump of a heavy crusty substance. This work one would think to be a family sepulchre, and that the urn below contained the ashes of some eminent person brought into that lump by the water contained in it ; and the urns fixed into the holes were children's ashes, their positions shewing that no more was to be put into them. The spaces between were left high enough to be filled with the family urns. This burial-place partly extends into Oxnead Park, and partly into Buxton parish, in which many urns have been found ; and Sir Robert Paston, digging in his park, met with many pieces of urns, &c. ; and a coin of the Emperor Volusianus, with this, *Imperatorii Cæsari Caio Vibio Volusiano Augusto*, the Emperor's head having a radiated crown ; on the reverse is a human figure with his arms extended, at his right foot an altar with *Pietas* inscribed."

This town at the Norman conquest belonged to Harold, and being seized by the Conqueror, was given to William de Warren. It afterwards came to the ancestors of the Fitzwalters, and was held always at one fee of them by the family who took their surname from the town ; they held it for many ages, there being few examples of the continuance of an estate in one family from the time of William Rufus to the year 1668.

About two miles to the right of Brampton is

BUXTON, the manor of which, at the Norman Conquest, was held by five brothers, all freemen. The

Abbes were afterwards an ancient family here. James Abbes, one of the vicars of St. Andrew's church, resigned in 1455, and was succeeded by John Gresham, otherwise called Sir John Pyketoo, or Picto, priest, a man of good family and fortune, of eminent charity, and a great benefactor to this church and parish, who in his lifetime settled great part of their present *townlands* on his parish for ever. The north aisle of the church was much beautified, if not totally rebuilt, by him; and, in one of its windows, Blomefield observes, his effigies still remain perfect, in his priest's habit, a *shaven crown*, the wafer on his breast, his hands elevated, kneeling on a cushion, the church behind him, and this on a scroll over his head:

Orate pro anima Johannie Pycto, Vicarii, &c.

He died in 1498, his will being proved the 16th of June in that year, and was buried in the chancel, before the steps of the high altar.

The son of Benjamin Griffin, vicar of this church, in the year 1681, was bound apprentice to a plumber and glazier, in Norwich, "but being of a brisk genius and active spirit, he commenced player, and made no mean figure on the English stage. He published, besides other things, *Injured Virtue, or the Virgin Martyr*, a tragedy, as it was acted at the playhouse at Richmond, by his grace the Duke of Southampton and Cleavland's servants, in 1715, by Benjamin Griffin. There is also a mezzotinto print of him and Johnson, another excellent comedian, in the characters of *Tribulation* and *Ananias*, in the play of the *Alchemist*, from a painting of Pet. Van Bleech, in 1738, which was not published till 1748." Griffin and Johnson were very partial to the performance of these characters.

The church of Buxton has a square tower and five bells; the nave and chancel are thatched; the two aisles and chantry chapels, at the east end, are leaded,

as are the south porch and the vestry at the west end. Thomas Bulmer, gent. of this parish, gave 500*l.*, with which an estate of 25*l.* per annum was purchased in Aylsham, and was vested in feoffees, who are to pay the annual clear profits to the vicar for the time being, who is to preach a sermon every morning, in Buxton church, from a text taken out of the gospel for the day, so that he be not excused preaching a sermon every afternoon, as vicar of the church; by which means, according to the intention of the donor, this church has two sermons, and double service every Sunday. He gave also 200*l.* to Buxton poor, a neat sounding-board to the pulpit, a set of pulpit clothes of purple, with gold fringe and tassels, on which is embroidered, in gold letters,

Ex dono Thomæ Bulmer, generosi, 1694.

Over the body of this gentleman, who died in August, 1694, in the eighty-second year of his age, is inscribed,

Here lies the *Case* of a Soul whose mind
Was fram'd to benefit mankind;
A Charity not out of breath,
By length of life, nor yet by death.
Thou, BUXTON, hadst the largest Dole
To Church, Priest, Poor, Body and Soule.
If thou a pillar dost not rear,
Let th' other Six Towns *twitch thine ear*;
If thou forget, this Stone shall be
A Monitor t' Posterity.

In the time of Richard I. there were two hamlets belonging to this town, *Kinethorp* and *Dudwie*, the last of which gave name to a very ancient family, that had a good estate here in 1198. On the top of *Gallow Hill*, which has been levelled many years since, stood the gallows; as this manor had the liberty of executing all its criminals within itself, and also of all other criminals taken in it, though they did not belong to it, according to the law of *infangthef* and *outfangthef*.

Many Roman urns have been discovered in the parish of Buxton.

LAMMAS is about a mile to the right of Buxton. This name is derived from *La Mers*, so called from its situation, the churchyard being washed by the river Bure. Lammas was first granted by Ralf de Bellfago, or Beaufoe, to Osbern, who is said to have founded the church, and to have given the advowson to Holm Abbey, which gift was confirmed by Henry II. in 1117, and Pope Lucius. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew, whose image stood in a tabernacle in the chancel, on the east wall, on the north side of the altar. Here a gild was kept in honour of that saint, which supported a light always burning before his image; here was likewise an altar of our Lady, a light, &c. with another kept up before the rood on the rood-loft, and another before the brown rood. In a north window is painted the Last Judgment, the blessed standing under the seat on the right hand, with this over their heads:

Venite Benedicite Patris mei.

Over the wicked, on the left hand,

Qui facient ista, non percipiunt Regna Celestia,
Ite Maledicti in Ignem Eternum.

In other panes of the window is the Blessed Virgin, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty, and entertaining the stranger; and these sentences:

FIRST PANE.

The Hungry man says	For Hunger Gredy
The Virgin answers	The to fede lo me nogh reedy

SECOND PANE.

The Naked calls out	For cold I Qual
The Virgin answers	Doo on a Cloth, the warm withall

THIRD PANE.

The Thirsty saith
The Virgin says

For thirst I cleve,
Have drink for the Lord that ye leve

FOURTH PANE.

The Stranger cries
She replies

Hostel I crave
Come wery in and you shall have.

About a mile and a half to the right is *Scottow* and *Scottow Hall*, the seat of Sir T. Durrant, bart. We now turn to the left towards the high-road, and pass *Swanton Abbots* and *Skyton*, two inconsiderable villages, and rejoin the road at Aylesham.

AYLESHAM is a pleasant town, 121 miles from London, situated on the south side of the river Bure, which is navigable hence to Yarmouth, for barges of several tons burthen. During the reigns of Edward II. and III. Aylesham was the chief town in this part of the kingdom for the linen manufacture, in ancient writings denominated *Aylesham webs*, cloth of *Aylesham*, &c. In succeeding ages this branch was superseded by the woollen manufacture; and, in the reign of James I. the people here were principally employed in knitting worsted stockings, breeches, and waistcoat pieces. This town, formerly governed by a bailiff, has a weekly market on Saturdays. The town contains 356 houses, and 1760 inhabitants. The fairs are held on the 23d of March, the last Tuesday in September, and on the 6th of October. The church consists of a nave, with two aisles, a chancel, a transept, and square tower, surmounted by a small spire. This church is said to have been erected by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, the court of which duchy was once held in this town. There is in the south window of the church a painting on glass, of the Salutation, finished in the year 1516. The font has basso relievos of the four emblems of the Evangelists, the instruments of the passion, and the arms of Gaunt.

with other armorial insignia; and there are many old brasses with inscriptions, in the church and chancel. The free-school, near the church, was founded by Robert Jennys, who was mayor of Norwich in the year 1517, and further endowed by Archbishop Parker. On the front of the Bridewell here, the following inscription was cut in wood:

GOD SAVE OURE SUPPREME KYNG HENRY THE HYGHT

Praye for the good prosperyte and asstate of Roberd Marsham and Jone his wyfe, the wiche this howse they cawsid to be made to the honor of the towne, by their qwyck lyves fines. 1543.

From Aylesham we pass through *Ingworth*, no ways remarkable.

SOUTH ERPINGHAM is a village of much notoriety, arising from local circumstances, having given name to, and long been the residence of the Erpingham family, one of whom was that chivalrous knight, Sir Thomas Erpingham, who lived in the reigns of Richard II. and the Henrys IV. and V.

Froissart describes a duel which was fought before the king at Montereau, between an English knight attached to the Duke of Ireland, called Sir Thomas Hapurgan (Erpingham) and Sir John de Barres. This duel had made a great noise throughout France and other countries; and it was to be fought with five courses of the lance on horseback, five thrusts with sword, and the same number of strokes with daggers and battle-axes; and should their armour fail, they were to be supplied anew until it were perfect.

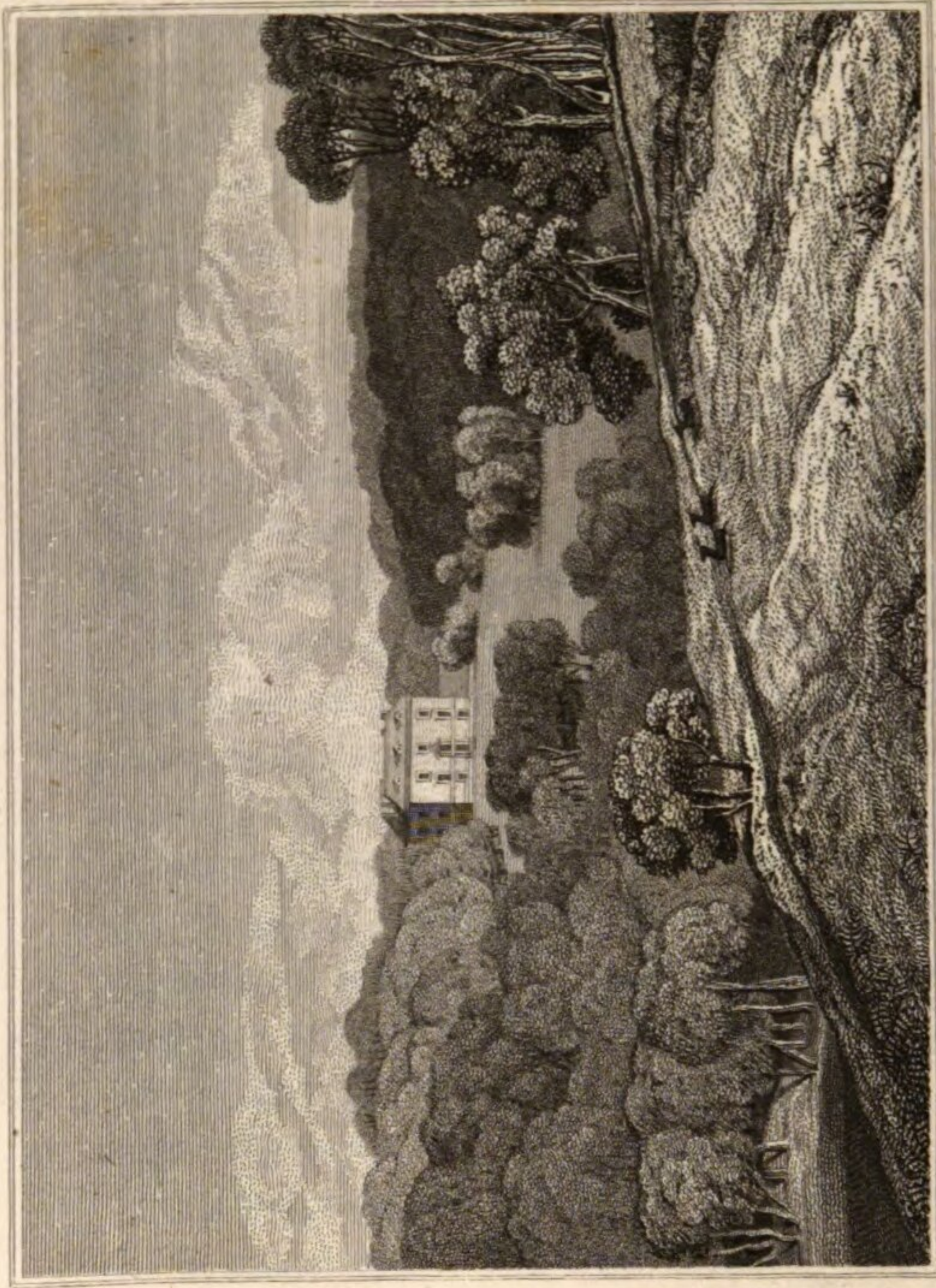
The church at Erpingham has a tall square tower containing four bells. On its top were four Confessors in their habits, one of which was struck with lightning more than a century since, which occurred during divine service, when one person was killed, and two others rendered insensible, who afterwards recovered. It is adorned with many shields carved in stone: on

one is a flower-pot with lilies, the emblem of the Virgin, to whom the church is dedicated, with the arms of Holm Abbey and those of St. George and Erpinghams. The church and tower were begun in Sir Thomas Erpingham's time, but was roofed by Sir William Philip, Lord Bardolph, and his lady. Sir Thomas Erpingham was in all the wars of Henry IV. and V. and distinguished himself, particularly at Agincourt. In the year 1400, Henry IV. in recompense for his services, gave him a messuage called the *New Inn*, near Paul's Wharf, in the city of London, for his city residence. This had lately been that of Sir John Beauchamp's, and before that John de Montague's, by whom it was forfeited to the king. Sir John de Erpingham, his father, lies buried under a large stone at the east end of the south aisle of the church in South Erpingham; the arms are lost, but his effigies in armour remain, standing on a lion. At each corner of the stone is the emblem of one of the Evangelists.

THWAITE, commonly called *Twait*, is about a mile from Erpingham, and was given to the Abbey of St. Bennets, at Holm, by the founder, King Canute. The church at Thwaite has a fine semicircular arch of entrance on the south side. It consists of six different mouldings of varied ornament; and over the centre is a rudely sculptured head. On each side of the doorway are two columns with figured capitals, between which the piers are ornamented with lozenges and other figures.

About two miles westward of Thwaite is

WOLTERTON. The windows of the church at this place had the creed of the Twelve Apostles in labels from their mouths, and many arms and other ornaments. The windows were glazed; and the church, the tower of which is circular at bottom, and octangular at the top, was repaired, if not rebuilt, by John de Wulterton, whose effigies, with those of his wife,



Engraved by J. Bishop from a Drawing by J. S. Colman for the Excursions through Suffolk.

WOLTERTON HALL,

The Seat of the Earl of Oxford.

NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 Dec. 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

remain in a north window. Both of these persons were interred before the Reformation, as appears from the

Orate pro anima Johannis de Wulterton.

Wolterton Hall, a seat built by the Hon. Horatio Walpole, about the year 1730, is an elegant modern mansion. It is seated in a large park, which is well ornamented with wood and water; and near the house is the tower of a church, embosomed in trees.— This hall is the seat of the Earl of Orford.

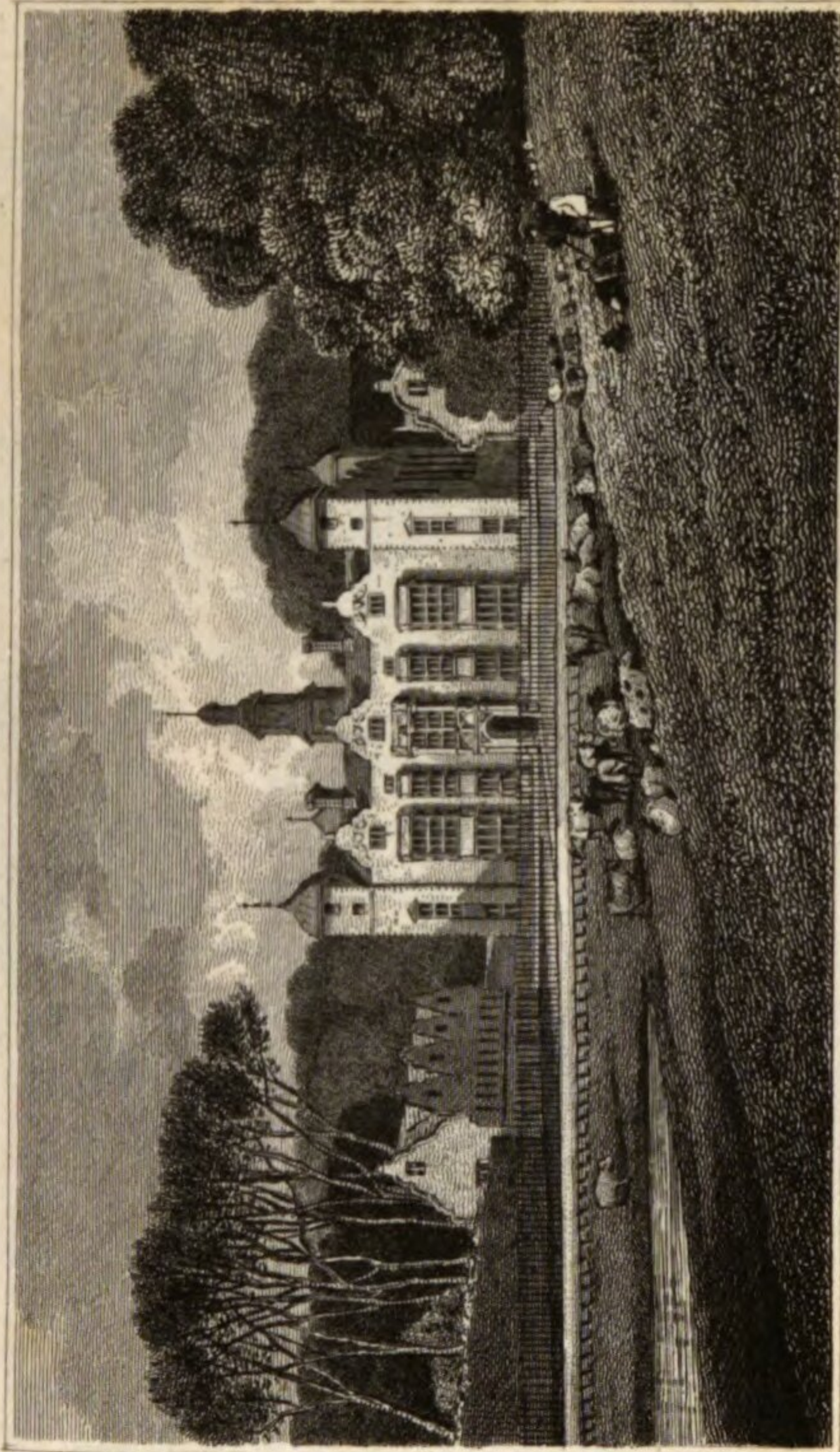
BACONSTHORPE is about four miles to the north of Wolterton. This village is simply called Thorp in Domesday book; but it took the name of Bacon to distinguish it from other Thorps in this county, the Bacons being anciently lords of it. Baconsthorpe was long the seat of the Heydon family. Sir Henry Heydon, knt. in the reign of Edward IV. built the hall or manor-house here, a sumptuous pile, the tower excepted, entirely from the ground, the latter being erected by his father. He also built the church and a noble house at West Wickham, in Kent. The church of Salthouse was likewise built by Sir Henry Heydon, and the causeway between Thursford and Walsingham was made at his expense. Sir Christopher Heydon was an eminent scholar in his time, and published a defence of Judicial Astrology, printed at Cambridge, in 1603—a work, as Wood observes, of no common reading, and carried on with no mean argument. He resided as much at Saxlingham as at Baconsthorpe; and in the chancel of Saxlingham buried his first lady, Mirabel, over whom he erected a most curious and sumptuous monument. Here is *Baconsthorpe Hall*.

Blickling, about two miles north-west of Aylsham, is an ancient manor, and was, in the Confessor's time, in possession of Harold, afterwards king of England; and Blickling being at an easy distance from Norwich,

the bishops held the demesnes in their own hands, and had a palace or country seat here, with a fine park adjoining it. Many of the bishops often resided here; and the liberties of *lete*, or view of frank pledge, assize of bread and ale, a gallows, tumbrel, or cucking stool, were allowed to this manor in several *iters*, by the king's itinerant justices or judges.

Blickling Hall, late the seat of the Honourable William Asheton Harbord, now of Lord Suffield, is an interesting ancient mansion, and still preserves in the general appearance, arrangement, &c. its original characteristics, having a square turret at each corner, and one more lofty in the centre, with a cupola and clock. The families of Dagworth, Erpingham, Fastolff, Boleyn, and Hobart, have successively possessed this manor, and several monuments have been erected in the parish church to some distinguished characters in each family. The present noble mansion was built by Sir John Hobart, knt. and completed in 1628, when the domestic chapel was consecrated. Blomefield observes, "the building is a curious brick fabrick, four-square, with a turret at each corner: there are two courts with the fine library, elegant wilderness, good lake, gardens, and park, is a pleasant beautiful seat, worthy the observation of such as make the Norfolk tour." The west front was built by the late Earl of Buckinghamshire in 1769. Stephenson composed the following complimentary lines on a progress made by Charles II. into this county, in the year 1671.

Paston and Hobart did bring up the meat,
 Who the next day at their own houses treat.
 Paston to Oxnead did his sovereign bring,
 And like Araunah offered as a king.
 Blickling, two monarchs and two queens hath seen,
 One king fetch'd thence, another brought a queen:
 Great Townshend of the treats brought up the rear,
 And doubly was my lord lieutenant there.



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

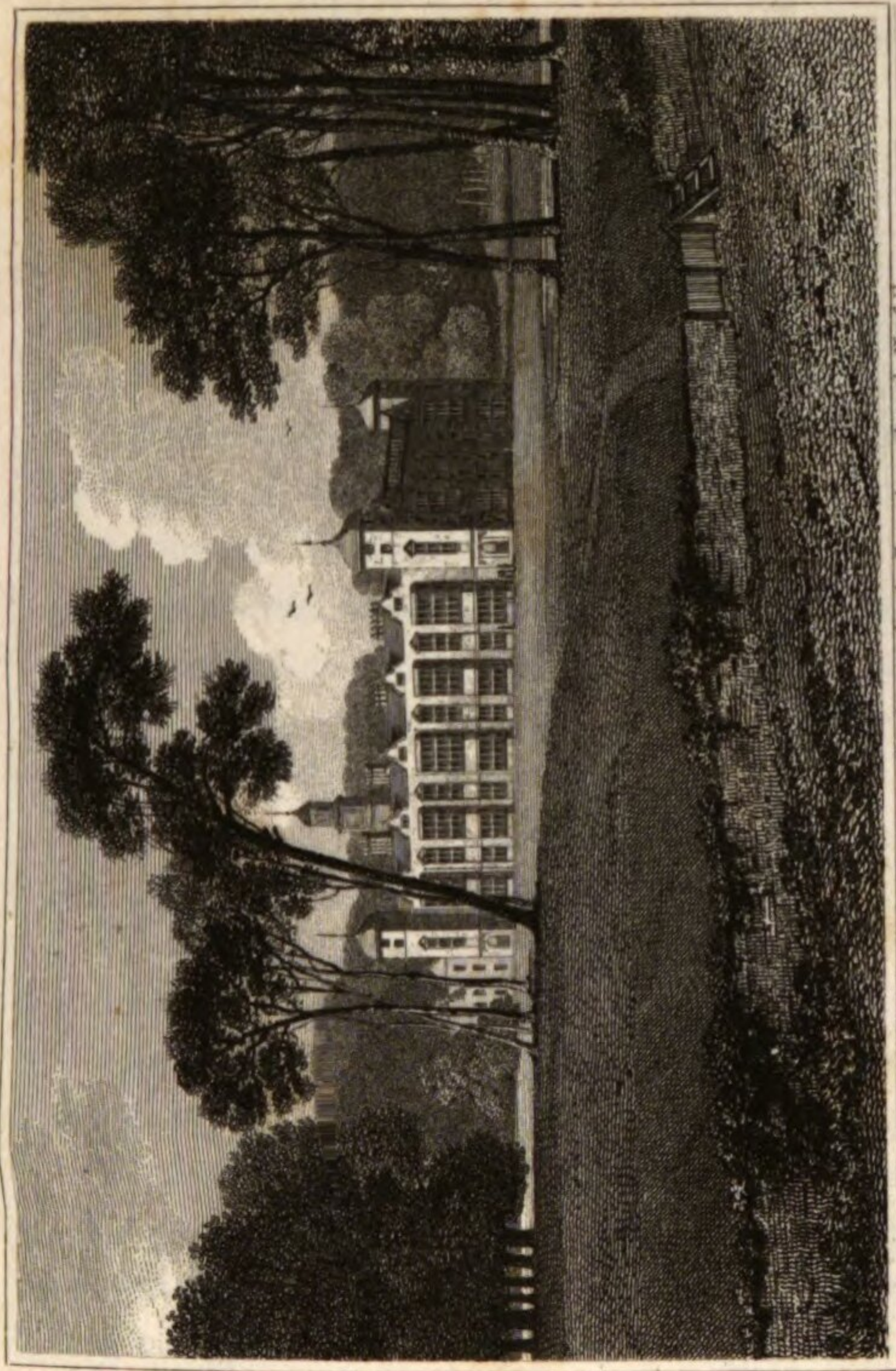
West front of

BLICKLING HALL.

The Seat of Lord Suffield.

NORFOLK.

Pub^d July 22. 1838. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Designed by I. Webb. Engraved by J. S. Colman for the Excursions through Norfolk.
South Front

BLICKLING HALL,
The Seat of the R.^t Hon.^{ble} Lord Suffield.
NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 March 1818 by Longman & Co. Printers &c. London.

Henry VIII. married Anne Boleyn from this house, and is said to have come here personally for that purpose, and Charles II. certainly visited Blickling with his Queen. The house is seated in a bottom, nearly environed with large old trees. A tale of woe also contributes to raise the consequence of this mansion. It was the birth-place of the unfortunate Anne Boleyn, one of the victims to the depraved appetite of Henry VIII. The entrance from the court-yard, on each side of which are ranged the offices in the same style of building as the house, is over a bridge of two arches which crosses a moat. After passing through a small inner court, the visitor enters the hall, and from that proceeds to the rest of the rooms, decorated with a number of paintings, portraits, &c. The park and gardens contain about one thousand acres of land, and are abundantly decorated with old forest trees, and a fine piece of water. The latter extends in the shape of a crescent for about one mile in length, and its extreme breadth is about 400 yards. A mausoleum of stone has been erected in the form of a pyramid, in which are the remains of the late Lord Buckinghamshire and his first lady.

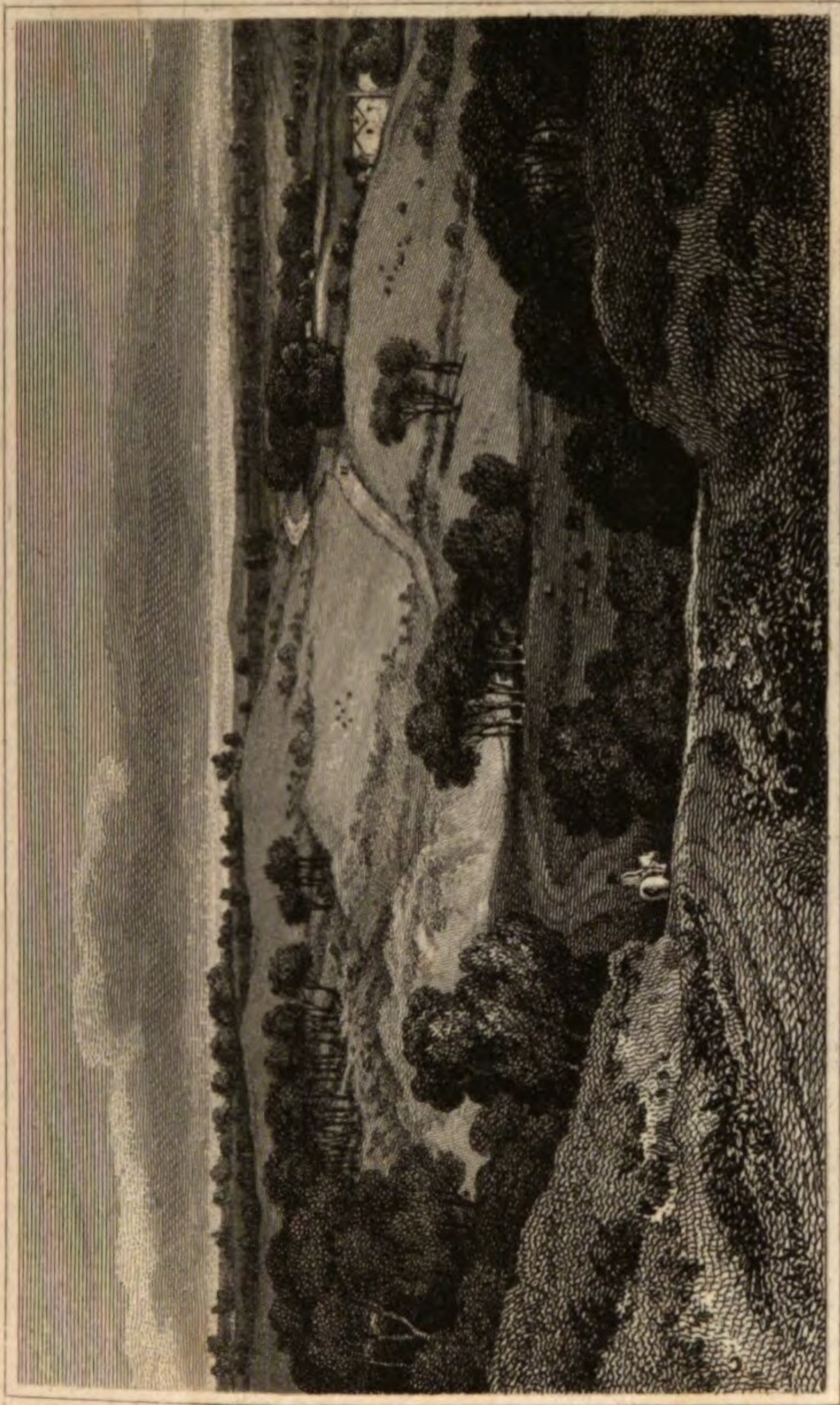
On the left of Blickling are *Oulton* and *Heydon Halls*, the first the seat of Mrs. Bell, the latter that of W. W. Bulmer, esq. Passing to some inconsiderable villages, we proceed to

MELTON CONSTABLE. This lordship is said to have derived its name from the office of constable first bestowed upon the family of de Mealton by William the Conqueror. The Conqueror's grand constable, or marshal, was styled *Princeps Militiæ Domus Regis*. Here is the seat of the late Sir Jacob Astley, which was built by his grandfather about the year 1680, and within a few years has been much ornamented and improved, especially the west front, as the house, which is a handsome square mansion, has four fronts.

The chapel, grand staircase, many of the rooms, ceilings, &c. are highly finished; but the house, as a whole, is thought to be rather convenient than elegant. Here is a fine collection of prints and original paintings, many curious and valuable books, &c. The park contains between six and seven hundred acres, and is four miles in circumference. The great canal here, made with uncommon difficulty, produces a fine effect, being properly united with wood. The temple, menagerie, church, porters lodges, stables, and the tower called *Belle Vue*, are seen to advantage in various directions as we approach the house from the south. From the latter, which contains several apartments, elegantly fitted up, is an immense prospect over the adjacent country and the sea. This prospect is finely intermixed with villages and cornfields. Norwich, North Walsham church, Lord Buckingham's Tower, Holt, Cley, and the ocean breaking through the hills at a distance, all combine to render this prospect one of the most perfect and pleasing in the county.

Melton Hall is the seat of Sir J. H. Astley, bart. and *Burgh*, or *Burrough Hall*, one mile beyond, is also the seat of that gentleman. Three miles on the left of Melton Hall is *Thursford Hall*, the residence of Sir Charles Chad, bart.; two miles further is *Gunthorp Hall*, Rev. C. Collyer. From Melton Constable we turn to the right, and passing *Thornage Hall*, leave Hempsted and the Red House to the right, and proceed to Holt.

HOLT. This was an extensive lordship, and part of the royal demesnes in the time of the Confessor; but soon after the Conquest the family of De Vaux, or de Vallibus, were in possession. Holt is at present a neat market-town, pleasantly situated on a rising ground, and containing 216 houses and 1037 inhabitants; the market is held on Saturday, and two fairs annually, the first on the 25th of April, and the second



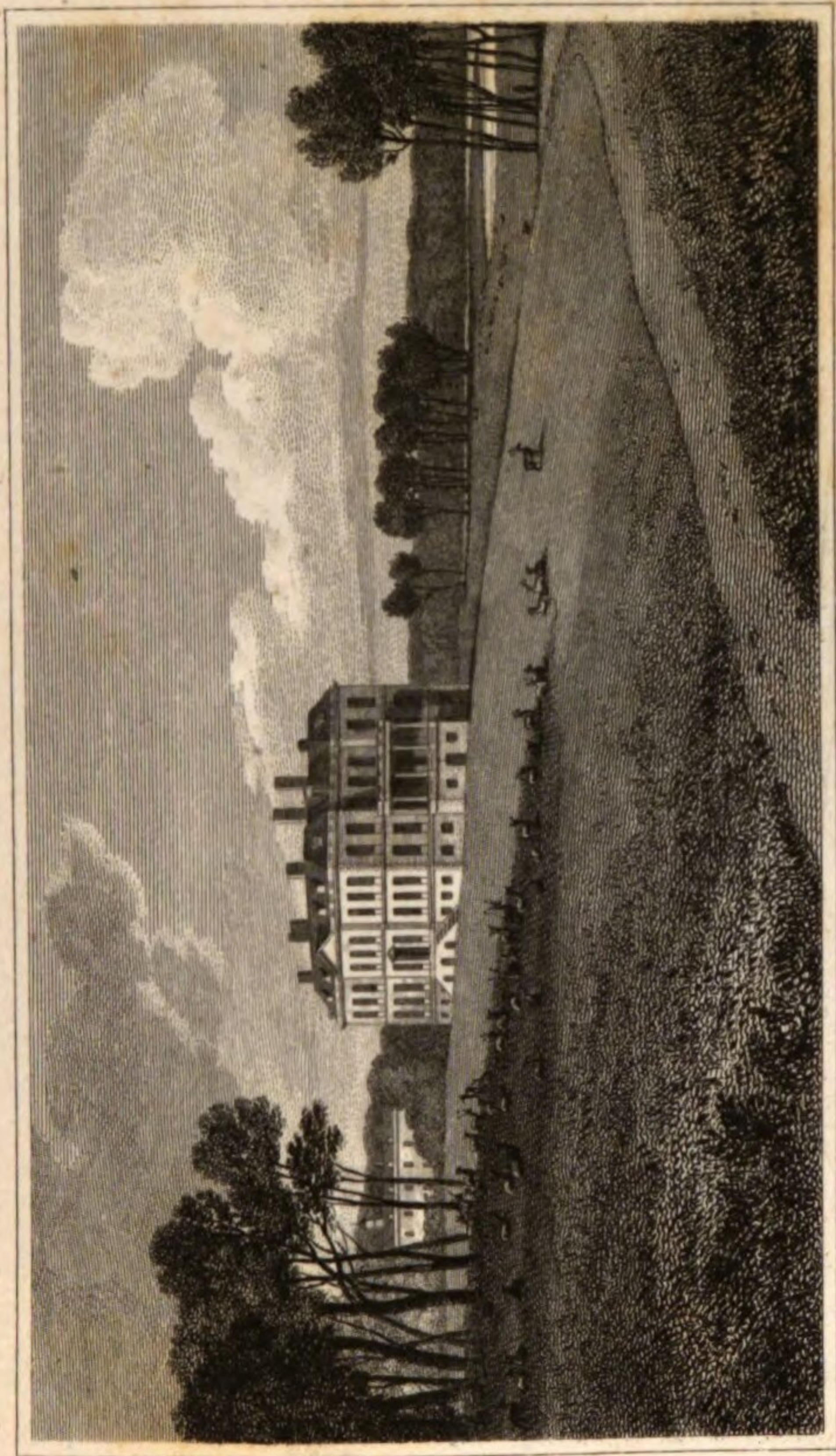
Engraved by J. Wells from a Drawing by J. S. Goss for the Excursions through Norfolk.

HOLT HEATH,

Looking towards Norwich,

NORFOLK.

Pub. 4 Feb. 1849, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



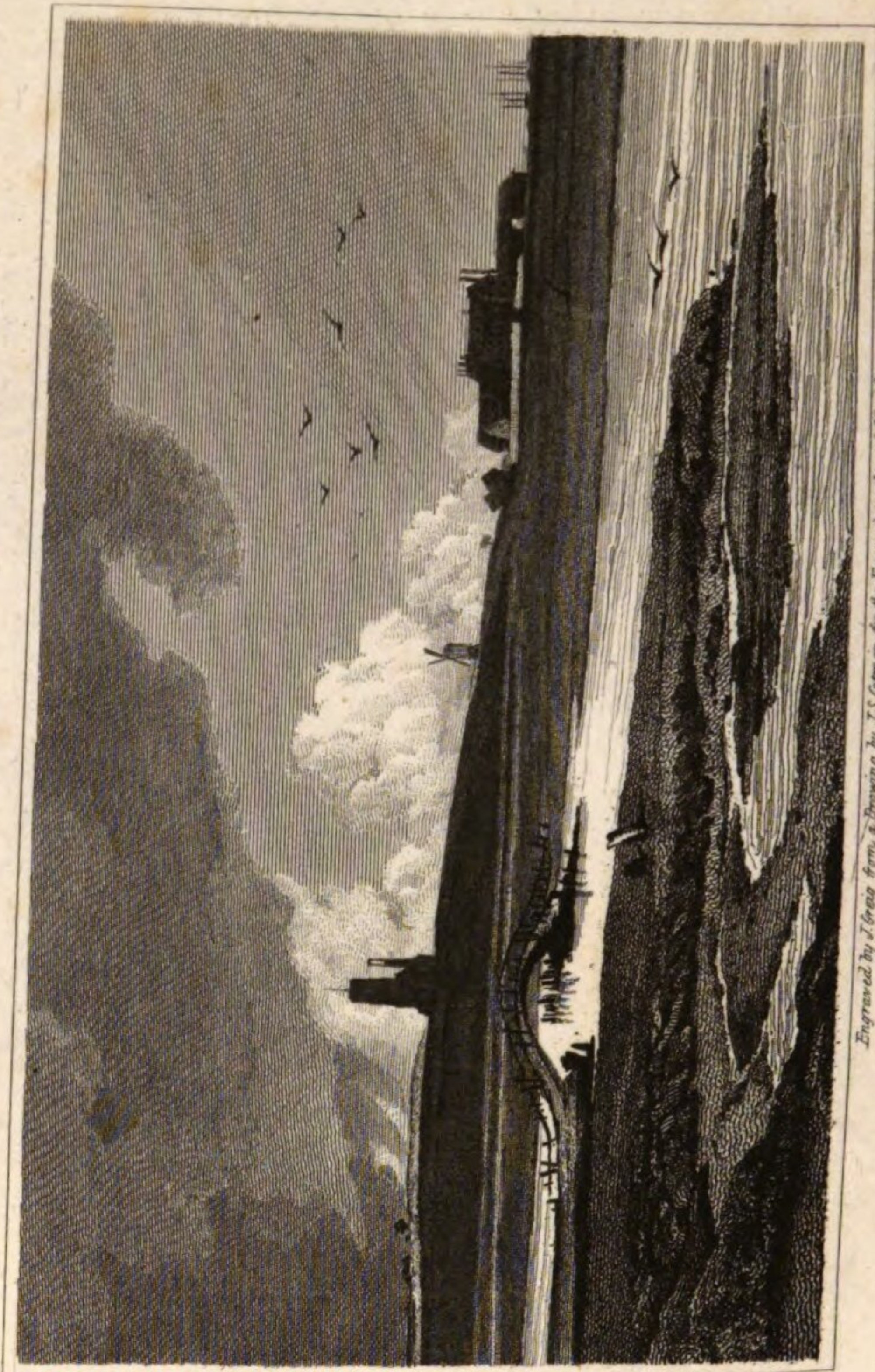
Engraved by J. Webb from a Drawing by J. S. Leeman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

MELTON PARK.

The Seat of Sir Jacob Astley Bart.

NORFOLK.

Pub. March 1829, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. S. Gorman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**BLAKENEY CHURCH & WIVETON HALL.
NORFOLK.**

Pubd April, 1849 by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.

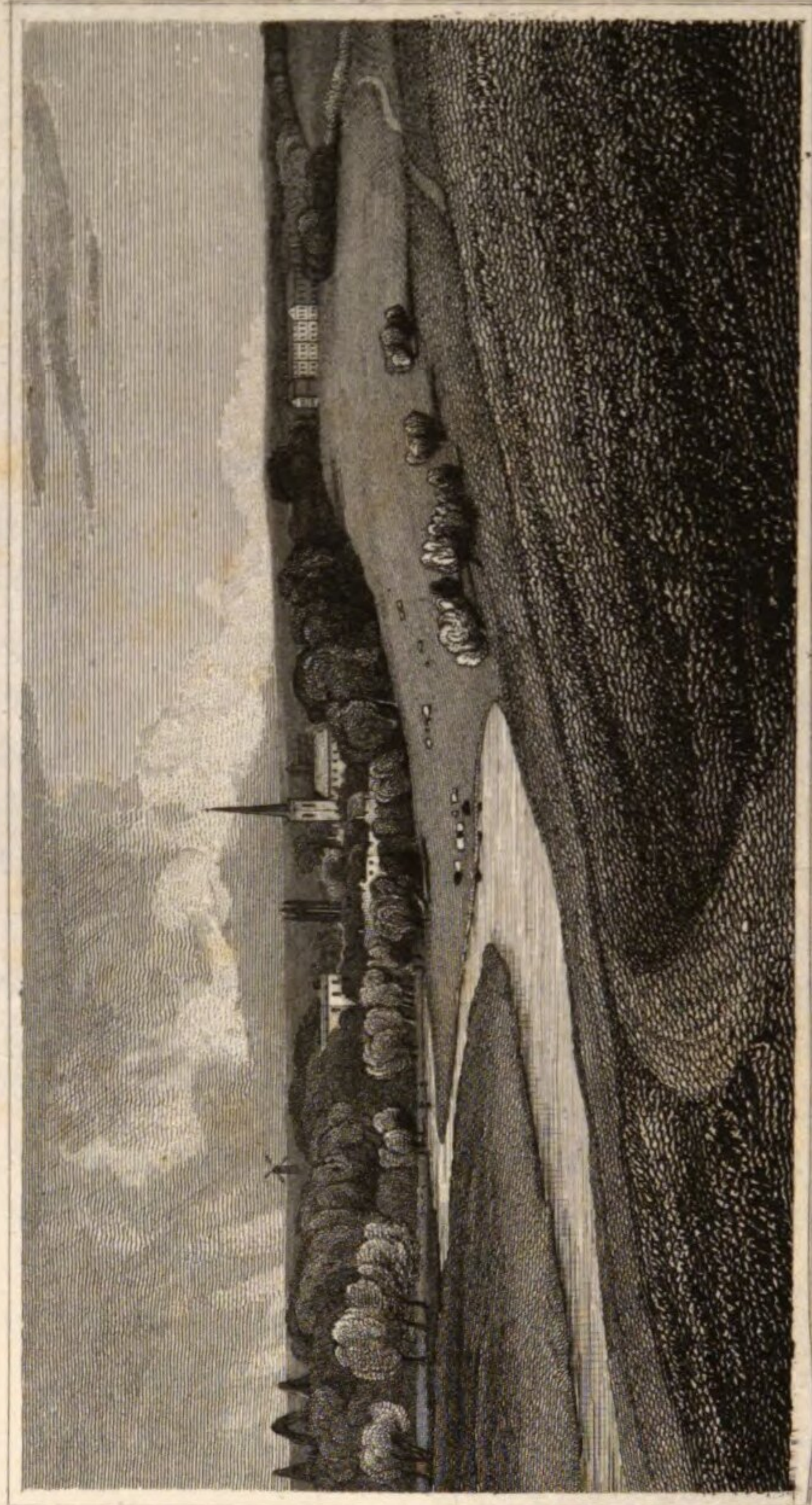
on the 25th of November. A fire which broke out in this town on May day, in the year 1708, was so rapid, that it was said the butchers had not time to save the meat on their stalls, it being Saturday. Before this fire the church consisted of a nave, a north and south aisle, a square tower, and a lofty spire, which was an excellent sea-mark: the chancel was afterwards fitted up for the performance of divine service. Many good houses have been built here since this fire, and here is a considerable freehold, founded in the year 1546 by Sir Thomas Gresham, who placed it under the perpetual direction of the Fishmongers' Company in London. Sir Thomas Gresham was born in the town of Holt, in the year 1507, and entering into partnership with his brother, Sir Richard Gresham, an eminent merchant in London, he became a distinguished character. In conjunction with his brother he projected the Royal Exchange, afterwards completed by his nephew, Sir John Gresham.

From Holt we proceed northwards, and passing *Bayfield Hall*, late the seat of Paul Jodrell, esq. on the sea coast, observe

BLAKENEY, a small sea port, formerly much frequented by German merchants; but has since had but little trade except fishing. This place gave birth to a man celebrated in church history, the learned and eccentric John de Baconthorpe, a member of the monastery of Carmelite Friars here. On account of his abstruse and metaphysical learning, he was called the resolute and subtle doctor; but was so blinded by the superstition of the age in which he lived, as to assert in a controversy respecting the celibacy of the clergy, "that the Pope possessed an inherent right to dispense with the divine laws." He died in London in the year 1346.

Returning towards the road, we next notice
SAXLINGHAM. In the church at this place is the

monument erected by Sir Christopher Heydon, to the memory of his lady, Mirabel, who was buried here, and which monument nearly occupies the whole area; being, however, enclosed with iron rails, there is just space enough left to go round this tomb, which is raised in the form of an Egyptian pyramid, constructed of marble and stone, supported by pillars, reaching almost to the top of the chancel, surmounted by an urn. Within the arch which supports the pyramid, is the effigies of a lady kneeling on a cushion, with a desk before her, on which lies a Bible opened, with these words,—“ I am sure that my Redeemer liveth,” &c. Over her head an oval stone projects, so curiously polished, as to reflect her effigies as from a looking glass; and at each corner are two children, four boys and four girls on their knees. There are four steps to ascend to these effigies; at each corner of the second step stands a Doric pillar; on the top of that, to the south-west, is the statue of a woman veiled, her left foot treading on a tortoise, with a dog by her right foot; on the north-west pillar is a swan, charged with stars; on the north-east is a Centaur in a maze, or labyrinth, and on the south-east pillar, a man in armour kneeling on a cushion. The pyramid is ornamented with a number of hieroglyphical figures; on the east side is a man blowing bladders, with Heydon's crest, &c. On the north side are two dexter hands joined, a hare couchant, a cornucopia, trumpet, and a vine branch, and the words, Vivit Annos XXII. Menses VI. Obiit XV. Julii A^o Dom. 1593. On the south side is a rose, the wind blowing on a cock's tail, several stars, a quiver full of arrows, hanging on a palm tree, &c. It is said that Sir Christopher published a treatise explaining these hieroglyphical symbols. Passing several villages which contain nothing worthy particular notice, we join the road to Wells at New Walsingham.



Engraved by W. Wallis from a Drawing by J. S. Colman, for the Excursions through Suffolk.

WALSINGHAM,

NORFOLK.

Pub. 4th Nov. 1818 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

The first of these is the fact that the
document is a copy of a letter from
the Secretary of the Navy to the
President. The second is the fact that
the document is a copy of a letter from
the President to the Secretary of the Navy.

The third is the fact that the document
is a copy of a letter from the Secretary
of the Navy to the President. The fourth
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the President to the Secretary of the Navy.



Engraved by J. Ranson from a Drawing by J. S. Gouman for the Excursions through Norfolk.

WALSINGHAM PRIORY, NORFOLK.

Pub. & Oct. 1845 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

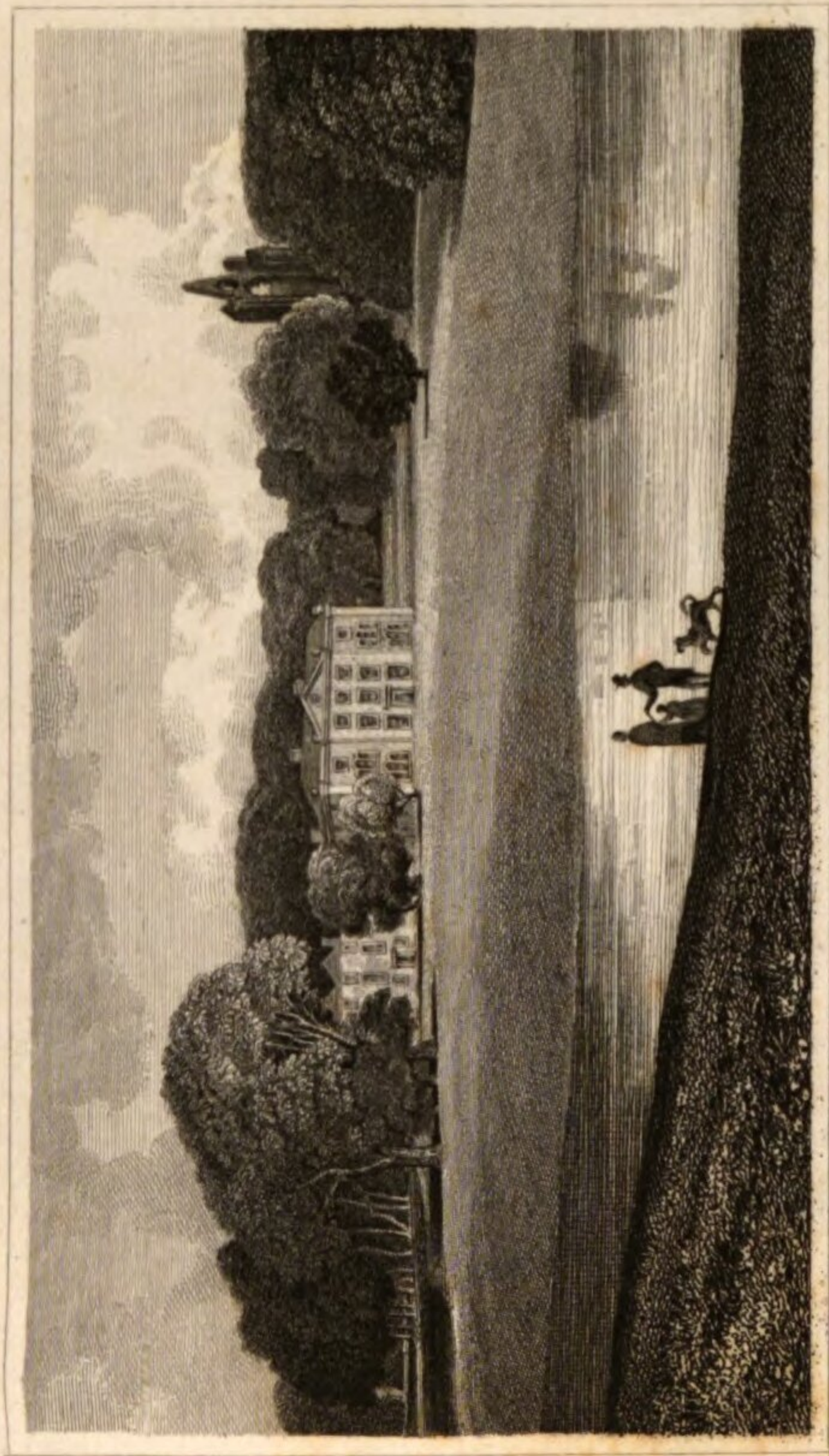
NEW WALSINGHAM is a considerable market town, situated on the banks of a small river which falls into the sea below Stiffkey, at the distance of about seven miles. The grounds on each side of the town rising in a bold manner, exhibit rather an unusual appearance in this county. Mr. Warner's plantations, the abbey, and the church, with a small spire, are beautiful objects, presenting themselves in different points of view, especially on approaching the town, entering either from Fakenham or Wells. Walsingham contains 232 houses and 1008 inhabitants. The market is on Wednesday, and the annual fair about Whitsuntide.

NEW and OLD WALSINGHAM formerly formed one lordship, and was part of the possessions of the powerful Earls of Clare. Here the widow lady of Ricoldie Faverches, about the year 1061, founded a small chapel in honour of the Virgin Mary, similar to the Sancta Casa at Nazareth. Sir Geffery de Faverches, her son, confirmed the endowments she had made, and added the foundation of a priory for Augustine Canons, and erected a conventual church. The numerous gifts and grants to this famous religious house form one of those extensive and dull mazes of ecclesiastical record, through which the historic topographer is constrained to wade. At the dissolution the annual revenues of the monastery were valued, according to Speed, at 446*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.* The immense wealth of this place arose from the fame of the image of the Lady of Walsingham, being as much, if not more frequented than the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket at Canterbury. Foreigners of all nations came hither on pilgrimages. Many kings and queens of England also paid their devotions to it, so that the number and quality of her devotees appeared to equal those of the Lady of Loretto. For mercenary purposes, the opinion was then propagated that such persons as had not been there were impious

and irreligious. The great Erasmus, one of the foreigners who probably came here rather to gratify curiosity than any other motive, observed, "The church is splendid and beautiful, but the Virgin dwells not in it; that, out of respect, is granted to her son, but neither in that doth she live, the building being not yet finished. She has her church so contrived as to be on the right hand of her son. In this church there is a small chapel of wood, into which the pilgrims are admitted on each side at a narrow door. There is but little or no light but what proceeds from wax tapers, yielding a most pleasant and odoriferous smell; but if you look in, you will say it is a seat of the gods, so bright and shining it is all over with jewels, gold, and silver." In the Colloquy, entitled "*Peregrinatio*," Erasmus has also given a very humorous description of the superstitions practised at this place in his time.

The present remains of this once stupendous monastic pile, are a portal or west entrance gateway, a richly ornamented lofty arch, sixty feet high, which formed the east of the church, supposed to have been erected in the time of Henry VII.; the refectory, seventy-eight feet long, and twenty-seven broad; and the walls twenty-six and a half feet in height; a Saxon arch, part of the original chapel, which has a zig-zag moulding; part of the old cloisters, a stone bath, and two uncovered wells, called the *Wishing Wells*, out of which the devotees, who had the permission to drink, were made to believe they might, under certain restrictions, have any thing they wished for. At present the principal part of these ruins are included in the pleasure-gardens of Henry Lee Warner, esq. who has a large commodious house that occupies the site of the Priory. The Abbey wall, near a mile in circuit, is yet very entire in most parts, as is likewise a stone pulpit in one of the windows.

Among the recent improvements made by the pre-



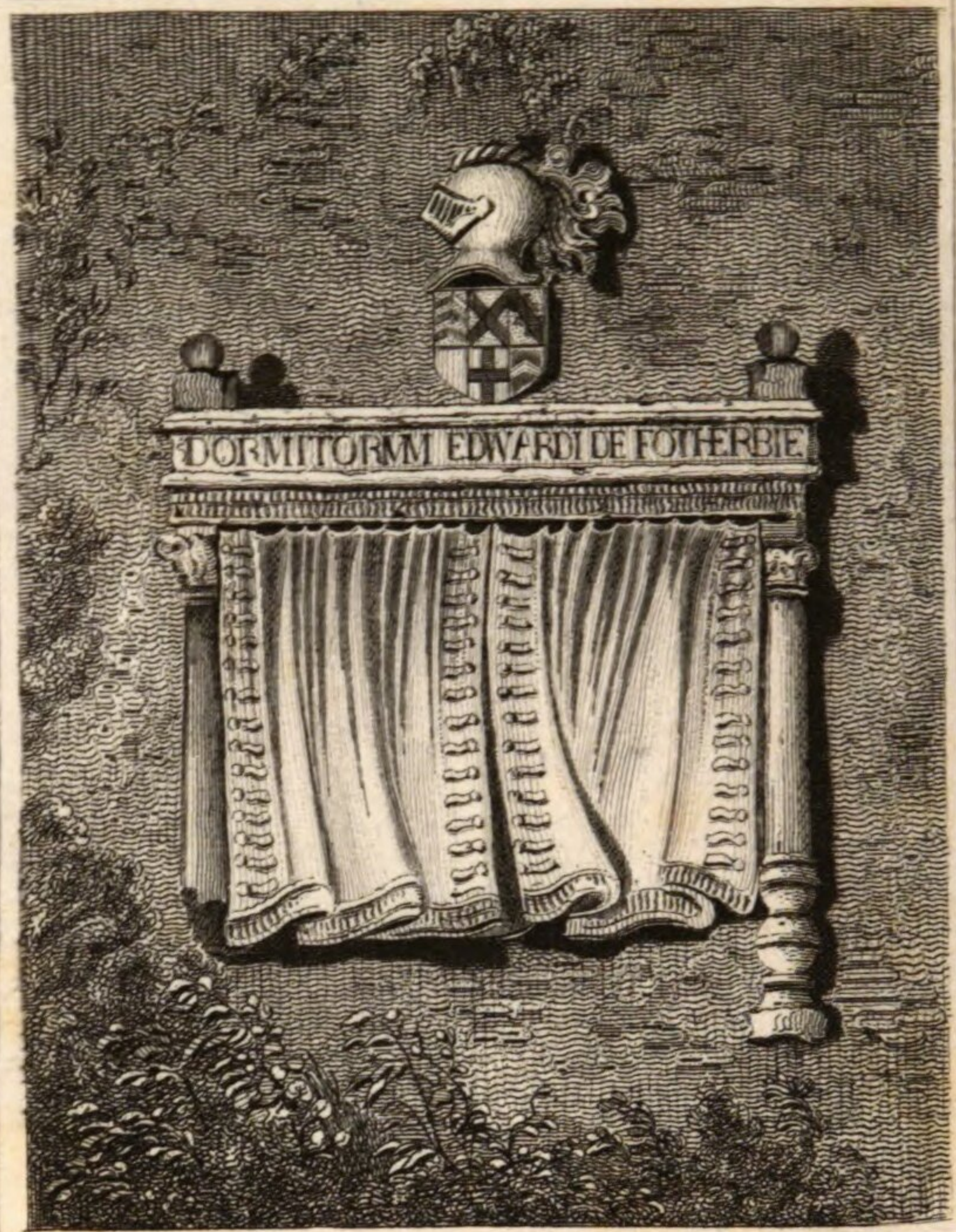
Engraved by J. Gray from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

WALSINGHAM PRIORY.

The Seat of Henry Lee Warner Esq.

NORFOLK.

Pub^d 4 April 1819, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by E. Roberts, from a Drawing by J.S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

An Antient Monument
WALSINGHAM CHURCH,
NORFOLK.

Pub.^d Feb. 1. 1818, by Longman & Co Paternoster Row.

sent proprietor is a new bridge across the rivulet, in front of the house, and widening the course of the stream, so as to give it the appearance of a lake. Contiguous to this water, and intermixed in a fine grove of large trees, are the various fragments of the ruins already noticed. Some of these are considered as interesting relics of architectural antiquity, and though several detached parts remain, the destruction of the rest is regretted by the curious. The church at Walsingham is a large and interesting pile, displaying much, in its architecture, ornaments, monuments, and very elegant font, to interest and gratify the antiquary. The latter is not only the finest specimen of the kind in the county, but perhaps in England: it is of an octangular shape, and the whole of its base, shaft, and projecting upper portion, is covered with sculpture, representing buttresses, pinnacles, niches, crocketed pediments, &c.; also several figures in basso relievo. It is elevated on a plinth of four steps, the exterior faces of which are also decorated with tracery, mouldings, &c. There was also a house of Grey Friars at Walsingham, founded by Lady Elizabeth de Burgh, Countess of Clare; but this was entirely obscured by its splendid neighbour. The place used as a Bridewell had also been used as an Hospital for Lazars. In the wall of the churchyard of St. Mary was the image of our Lady, the image of St. Anne in the chapel, in the church, &c. On the wooden cover of the font these words were carved:

Ex dono Jane Dominae Sidney, in piæ mentis indicium.

So superstitious, weak, and credulous were the common people, that they believed as they were then imposed upon and taught, namely, that the galaxy or milky way was appointed by Providence as the particular place of residence of the Virgin, which on that account was, in that age, called *Walsingham Way*.

Blomefield adds, I have heard old people of this country so to call and distinguish it some years ago. Under these circumstances, it was not surprising that at the dissolution, that John Lampley, William Mitcham, Richard Garret, and three other canons, when visited by commissioners appointed by the crown, "*confessed themselves guilty of notorious incontinency; and that great superstition and much forgery was found in their pretended relics and miracles.*"

About a mile to the left of Walsingham is

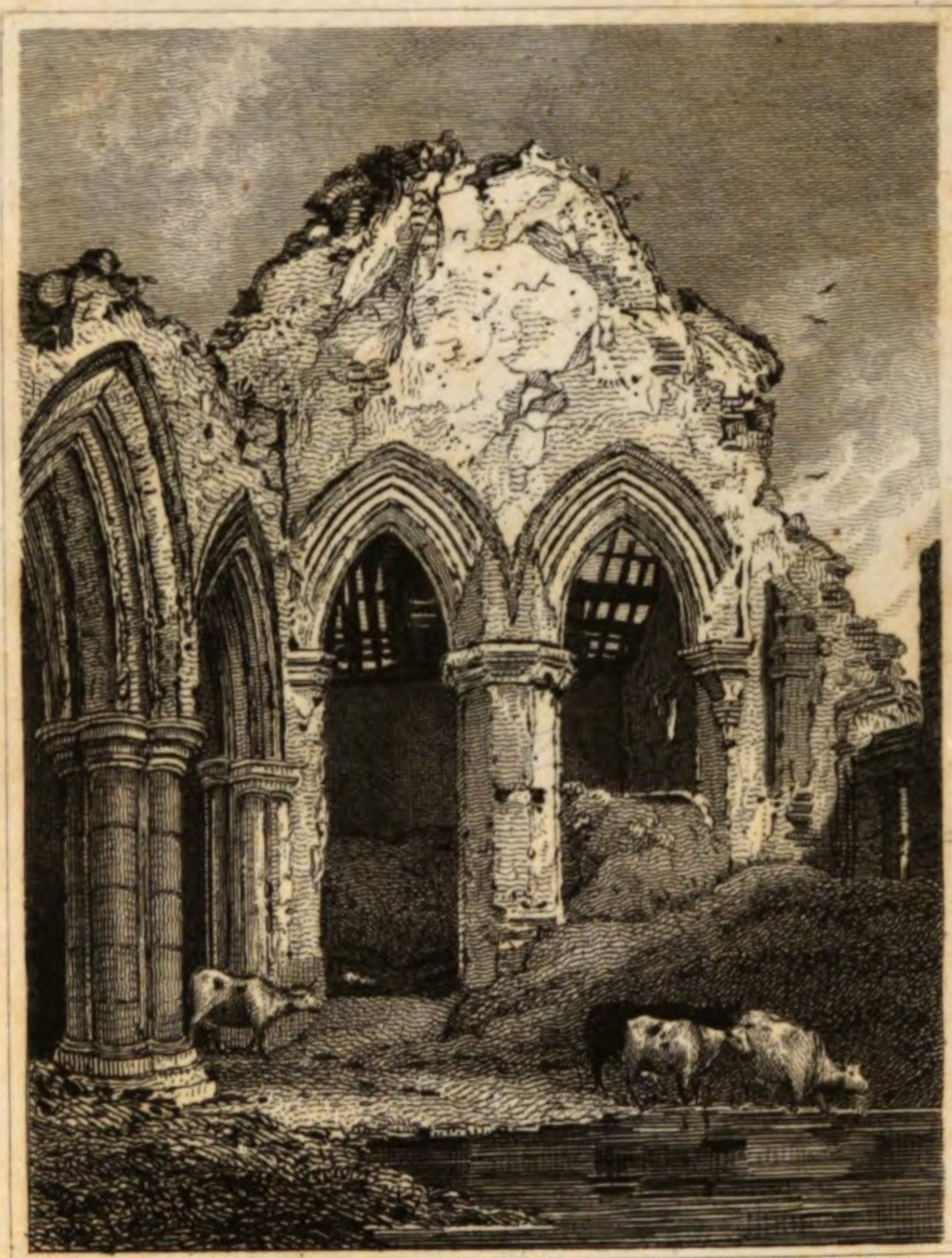
HOUGHTON. This place is called *Houghton in the Hole* and *Houghton le Dale*, to distinguish it from the Houghton in Gallow hundred. The small ancient chapel here appears to have been much ornamented with crocketed pinnacles, canopied niches, &c.

We now turn to the left to notice a few places in the hundred of Brother Cross, and the first of these are the contiguous villages of North and South Creak.

SOUTH CREAK. About half a mile south of the church in this village is a large ancient encampment, supposed to have been first constructed by the Saxons. The way leading to it is called *Blood Gate*, alluding to the great slaughter which at some period took place between the Saxons and the Danes. Towards the sea shore, in the adjacent villages, are many small tumuli or hillocks, which Camden conceives to have been the graves of the slain.

CREAKE ABBEY, in the parish of North Creak, was first founded for a master, four chaplains, and thirteen lay brethren, by Sir Robert de Narford and Alice his wife. They were afterwards made an abbot and canon of the Augustine order. Part of the abbey walls still remain, and form a fine venerable ruin. We next observe several villages of the name of Burnham, the most remarkable of these are

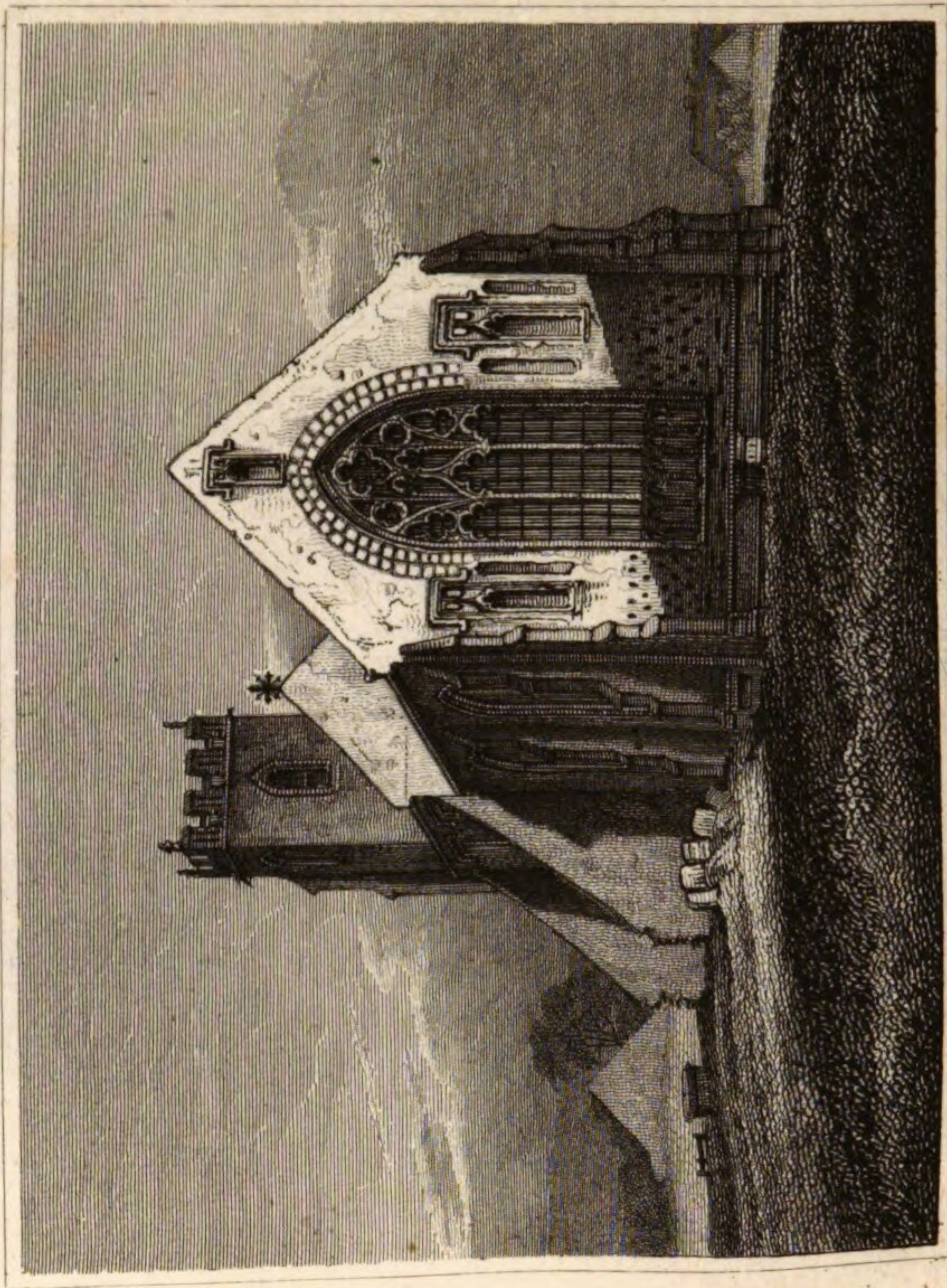
BURNHAM WESTGATE, or BURNHAM MARKET, so called to distinguish it from other parishes in this hun-



Engraved by J. Greig, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

Remains of
NORTH CREAK ABBEY,
NORFOLK.

Pubd. June 1. 1819, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by W. Wallis, from a Drawing by J. S. Letman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**BURNHAM THORPE CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub. Feb. 1. 1818, by Longman & Co. Stationers Row.

dred. Here is a small weekly market on Mondays. Here was formerly a small monastery of White Friars or Carmelites.

BURNHAM THORPE is most distinguished by its having been the birthplace of the immortal Nelson, whose father was many years rector of this place, and also of Burnham Sutton.

HOLKHAM, about three miles and a half from Burnham Westgate, it is said, takes its name from its site being near some hills, *Hoelig Ham*, and, as tradition says, was one of the country seats of a king of the East Angles; and that Withiburga, his youngest daughter, who was canonized for her piety, was born and educated here. The principal lordship of this town, after the Conquest, was granted to Tovi, one of the Conqueror's attendants, on the deprivation of Ketel a freeman, who was lord in the reign of King Edward. Holkham was once a place of some consequence and eminence for trade and shipping, as in the fourth year of Edward II. the king sent his writ to this town, Burnham, Snetterley, Lynn, and Yarmouth, to provide ships to be sent to Scotland: and this town, with that of Burnham Deepdale, were appointed to find one ship, in order with others to transport the king's army from Dublin to Scotland. The Coke family were very early residents at Holkham. Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice of England, was one of the most distinguished branches of this family.

Holkham church, dedicated to St. Withiburga, stands on a hill north of the town, one mile from the sea, and is a noted sea-mark, commanding an extensive prospect over the British ocean. It consists of a nave and two aisles with a chancel, all covered with lead. A strong square tower stands at the south-west corner of the south aisle, embattled, having four bells. The lower part serves as a porch to the church. The north and south aisles extend on each side of the chancel,

and serve as buttresses against the wind, &c. from the sea. The east end of both these aisles were chapels, but are now inclosed. This church was thoroughly repaired by the Countess Dowager of Leicester in 1767, at the expense of 1000*l*. The pulpit, desks, communion-table, rails, &c. are of mahogany; the font is marble. Linen and books for all the services were at the same time provided, the old monuments restored, the vestry fitted up, the floors new laid, the windows glazed, and the whole finished by Easter, 1768. The Countess of Leicester, in 1763, further endowed some alms-houses she had built at Holkham in 1755. Three men and three women, maintained herein, have sixpence a day each, one chaldron of coals annually, and new clothing once in two years.

Holkham House. This magnificent seat was begun in the year 1734 by the Earl of Leicester, and completed by his Countess Dowager in 1760: the general plans, elevations, &c. were given by the Earls of Burlington and Leicester, assisted by Mr. Kent, who had been patronized by those noblemen whilst pursuing his studies at Rome. The central part of this spacious mansion, built of white brick, is accompanied by four wings or pavilions, which are connected with it by rectilinear corridors, or galleries; each of the fronts, therefore, displays a centre and two wings, a most admirable contrivance, as they serve either to unite the principal floors of the wings with the state apartments, or to detach them at pleasure. These corridors, &c. communicating directly with the lawn, or with the servants' offices below on the basement story, are an advantage which seems, with some trifling deviations, to have been borrowed from Palladio's plan of a villa designed for the Cavalier Leonardo Mocenigo upon the Brenta. The south front has in its centre a bold portico, with its entablature supported by six Corinthian columns. The north front is the grand or principal entrance, and



Engraved by J. Mearns from a Drawing by J. S. Colman for the Engravings through Norfolk.

HOLKHAM HALL,
The Seat of Tho.^s Will.^m Coke Esq^r.

NORFOLK.

Pubd 4 April 1812 by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row

consists of a centre and two wings, with a tier of Venetian windows over another of small square sashes in the rustic basement. The length of this front is 144 feet. The dimensions of the central part of this house are 62 feet by 14. This contains the principal or grand apartments, that present one regular suite of five rooms diminishing from the centre, which is the largest and most splendid, communicating with facility, and receding gradually to the extreme and lesser apartments situated in the wings, with which, on the south side, the corridors included, it forms an enfilade of twelve distinct rooms, terminated at each end by a window, and produces an extent of nearly 344 feet. The gilding of the window frames and sashes, which has lately been renewed by Mr. Coke, gives the whole a magnificent appearance. There are four wings or pavilions, each of which in dimension is 60 feet by 70.

The stranger's wing is divided upon the ground floor into single bedchambers; and above, on the principal floor, it is again divided into bedchambers, with single or double dressing-rooms, as may be occasionally requisite.

The family wing, occupied by the family, contains the library and two additional rooms fitted up by Mr. Coke, the one for the reception of his invaluable collection of manuscripts, which during many years were deposited in the tower library, the other for the earliest editions of the classics.

The chapel wing contains the chapel and two complete sleeping apartments, over which are lodging rooms for some of the servants of the family. The lower part is appropriated to the laundry and dairy offices, with a drying yard and court attached.

The kitchen wing is allotted to the uses of the kitchen and its offices, with servants' hall, having bedrooms over it; this has likewise its contiguous court. These courts, although they contain a number of

smaller buildings, commodiously situated near the offices to which they belong, are so judiciously concealed from outward observation, that their boundary wall rises no higher than to the plinth of the basement story. Under this are the cellars and various other places, appropriated to different uses, corresponding in size with the rooms above, so that the partition walls might have a safe foundation, being carried up directly from the cellar floor. Each room and passage being entirely arched over with groined brickwork, and executed in such a masterly style, as to particularly attract the notice of every person who has had an opportunity of inspecting them. Such is the strength of the foundation and of the arches, that it is on record, that there are as many bricks below the surface of the ground, as have been used in the upper part of the structure.

The Holkham bricks resemble the modern yellow brick of the Romans, both in colour and hardness: this similarity was discovered by comparing the former with one of the latter accidentally sent from Rome in the packing case of an antique statue.

Bath stone, in deference to its fine yellow tint, was first fixed on for the external surface of the intended structure; but a brick earth was found in the neighbouring parish of Burnham Norton, which, with proper seasoning and tempering, produced an excellent well-shaped brick, approaching nearly to the colour of Bath stone, full as ponderous, and of a much firmer texture.

As a proof of their durability, although nearly sixty years are elapsed since the completion of the work, during which time they have been continually exposed to the action of the weather, yet they remain as sound and perfect as when first laid.

It may be a matter worthy of remark in this place, that in the execution of a single rustic, no less than

thirty moulds of different shapes and sizes were required. This was most judiciously done to avoid cutting the bricks, which would have caused a discoloration of their surfaces, and would have materially increased the number of joints.

Throughout the execution of the work, bricks have been made of all the various forms that were requisite.

The same diligence was used in preparing the mortar for the walls, which being first mixed in due proportion of lime and sand, was afterwards (to render it of sufficient fineness for close brick-work) ground between a pair of large mill-stones, fitted to an engine for that purpose.

All the inner joints of the walls were carefully filled with this mortar, made up into grout, and poured, in a liquid state, upon every course, or every two courses of the brick-work. The floors are entirely of wainscot oak. The chimney pieces are in the finest style of execution; those of the principal rooms are of the purest statuary marble; the others are composite, and in point of beauty and variety of material and workmanship are not to be surpassed. The cielings to the principal floor are well executed in white and gold, by Mr. Carter, and have a light and beautiful effect.

The architect took care that no part of the principal walls should be supported upon timber, lest in decaying it might damage the fabric; this judicious plan cannot be too highly esteemed, it being particularly worthy the attention of all those concerned in building. So little indeed does the strength of this edifice depend upon the assistance of its timbers, that the girders of the principal floors were not hoisted into their respective situations till after the roof had been raised to the building, and the walls of the house fully perfected; by which management the timbers have a free circu-

lation of air about them, being in contact with the wall only on their lower surfaces.

This superb edifice was erected under the superintendence of the late Mr. Brettingham, of Norwich, whose son published plans, elevations, &c. of the structure, who, in the knowledge of sound building, was allowed to equal, if not excel, all the professors of his time; and in fact the characteristic merit of Holkham is most discernible in the accurate performance of its workmanship.

Among the bustoes and statues in the vestibule under the portico of the south front, is that of Carneades, the Cyrenean philosopher, a figure of Jupiter, a marble bust of Cicero, the same of Plato, an antique Herma, a bust of Seneca, and several plaster casts from antique statues. The room next the Jupiter contains, 1. a dancing faun, in the gallery of Florence; 2. Apollo, of the Belvidere; 3. Ganymede, of Villa Medici; 4. Ptolemy, of the Grand Duke's gallery at Florence; 5. Meleager, of Pichini; 6. Venus de Belle Fesse. Here is also an antique cinerary urn, in the form of an altar, highly decorated.

The Grand Hall. The idea of this hall was suggested by the earl himself, from Palladio's plan of a basilica, or tribunal of justice, &c.

The tribunal part, or semicircular niche at the upper end, contains the flight of steps leading up to the saloon.

The fluted Ionic columns, which form the colonnade or gallery of communication, leading to the apartments on each side of the hall, and which is supported on a basement of variegated alabaster, was taken from the Ionic temple of Fortuna Virilis at Rome, and well executed by the late Mr. Pickford; who also performed the greater part of the work of the basement; round the upper and lower parts of which is a border of

black marble, inlaid with white alabaster *a la Grecque*. The floor is of Portland stone, bordered with another of a dark colour, which produces a good effect.

The quadrangular diminishing Mosaics in the cove, from the aforesaid, are taken from the same Pantheon; the whole entablature and compartment cielings, in stucco, and all other cielings, cornices, and entablatures, in the numerous apartments of this villa, were conducted from their commencement by the ingenious Mr. T. Clark, of Westminster.

Over the entrance door into the hall, which is particularly striking from its simplicity, is the following inscription, illustrative of the appearance of this part of the country, before the plastic hand of the Earl of Leicester had beautified it.

“ This seat, on an open barren estate, was planned, planted, built, decorated, and inhabited, the middle of the eighteenth century, by Thomas Coke, Earl of Leicester.”

Imagination can scarcely form an idea more majestic than that of this hall, which is one of the noblest derived to us from the ancients; nor perhaps can any space be found of the same magnitude, that will admit of a grander display of architecture.

Its stately range of fluted columns of variegated alabaster; the splendour of its various ornaments in the ceiling, in the cove, in the soffits of the architrave, and in the colonnades, all decorated with such admirable propriety, from the purest models of antiquity; jointly produce on the mind of the admiring spectator an effect every way corresponding with the most exalted ideas of Vitruvian magnificence.

The statues in the niches of the colonnade of the grand hall, beginning with that on the left hand next the corridor, are as follow, 1. Apollo; 2. Flora; 3. Bacchus; 4. Isis, or priestess of Isis; 5. Septimius Severus; 6. a Faun, with the nacchare (or castanets) in marble,

antique. Over the door leading into the saloon, a bust of the Earl of Leicester, the noble founder of this mansion; 7. an antique Faun in marble; 8. Agrippina Minora, (in Travertine stone); 9. Venus di Belle Fesse; 10. a Faun, from the antique, a cast; 11. Julia Mamaea, a ditto; 12. Antinous, of the capitol, a ditto. The death of Germanicus, by Nollekens; a bas-relief, representing the delivering up the gates of Florence to Cosmo the Great; a small figure of the river Nile, in white marble.

The ceiling of the north dining-room was for the most part taken from Inigo Jones. The two chimney pieces are of excellent workmanship, and of similar design, diversified in the devices of their tablets. The bear and bee-hive on the one, the sow with her litter and the wolf on the other, are truly deserving attention. They are composed of Sicilian jasper, trusses, and statuary marble, mixed, executed by Mr. Carter; who also executed the foliage scrolls in the open pilasters of the archway, leading to the sideboard. The scrolls are carved in lime-tree wood. The sideboard table, the frame and legs of which are of porphyry, (a fragment of an ancient sarcophagus) are enriched with or-moulu ornaments. The slab is of Egyptian green marble, in which the asbestos is said to be found. Beneath it stands a large bason of Mount Edgecumbe red granite. The block was a present from Lord Edgecumbe. On each side of the niche are two antique heads, or modern bustoes, of African coloured marble, and placed on consoles. On the left hand side of the niche is Geta, who was stabbed by his brother Caracalla, that he might reign alone.

The anti-room to the stranger's wing contains a number of exquisite paintings, mostly the family portraits.

The red and yellow dressing-room, the red and yellow bedchamber, the blue and yellow bedchamber, and all

the others of this description, are highly decorated with statuary marble ornaments, tapestry, and paintings.

To the statue gallery, its vestibule, and its tribune, it is impossible to do justice by any slight sketch. To appreciate their value they must be seen; when even those who cannot comprehend will at least admire.

The Manuscript Library. This room has lately been fitted up by Mr. Coke for the reception of his superb collection of manuscripts, 800 in number, which have recently, by the able assistance of the liberal and enlightened Mr. Roscoe, been inspected and restored; who has by the most indefatigable perusal of these manuscripts, been enabled to ascertain their age and their value, and he has enriched them with notes and observations of his own, which must prove entertaining to every man of classical taste and erudition.

The library is 54 feet by 18, and is elegantly and completely fitted up with light open bookcases, that contain a large number of choice works, and books of engravings, some of which are extremely rare. The dado contains port-folios of valuable original drawings and prints, by Raphael, Julio Romano, Francesco, Penni, Polidoro, the Carraccis, Guido, Dominichino, Guercino, Titian, Carlo Maratti, and the Venetian and Flemish schools.

Also a valuable collection of ceilings, pavements, vases, and urns, designed and coloured from the antique, by Santo Bartoli.

The chapel is 63 feet by 18, and 27 feet high. The paintings are as follow: over the altar, the assumption of the Virgin, a masterly performance, by the admirable Guido Reni. On the side pannels, two whole length figures of Santa Cecilia and St. Anne, Cipriani. Above, in the attic part of the chapel, Abraham, Hagar and Ismael, by Andrea Sacchi, from the Barberini collection; the Angel appearing to Joseph, Lanfranco; Rebecca at the well, Benedetto Luti. In the family

seat, over a neat small chimney piece, composed of Staffordshire alabaster, and coloured marbles, is a picture of St. Mary Magdalen and an angel, Carlo Maratti. The screen to the seat towards the chapel is of cedar wood, inlaid with ornaments carved in lime-tree. The basement of the chapel is encrusted with Staffordshire alabaster: and the columns are also of the same material.

The Park. To give a full description of this extensive domain would form a volume of itself; suffice it to say, the park, within the paling, contains about 3500 acres. Its circumference is upwards of ten miles. Within the park, is a most enchanting ride of seven miles, in the midst of a belt of fir, and other trees, evergreens and shrubs, whose foliage exhibits a variety of tints. The interior presents all the eye or imagination can wish. Clumps of flourishing trees, sketched with the greatest taste, gentle hills, and the corn waving vales; the extensive lake, with its finely wooded shore; the church and other objects, combine to heighten the scene.

One of the principal ornaments of the park is the obelisk; this pillar, which stands on an eminence, is seen with great advantage from the south front of the house; skirted on each side with wood, with such great uniformity, it cannot but attract notice. From the base line to the extremity of its point it measures 80 feet; it is only cased with Bath stone ashler, fastened together with iron cramps, and as the work advanced, filled up with regular courses of brick-work, laid dry, and cemented with grout or liquid mortar. The difficulty consisted in preventing the settlement of the inner nucleus, or brick core, from the outside courses of stone ashler: which this method effectually removed.

Inigo Jones was the first that introduced the diamond or flat point: but the architect of Holkham has followed the rules of antiquity, and given its termina-

tion an equilateral triangle, of which alteration Lord Burlington afterwards approved. This obelisk, the first work erected at Holkham, was completed in the year 1729.

Near this stands the temple, the portico of which, all except the crest and cyphers in the frieze, was taken from an example of the Doric order, exhibited in the *Parallele de l'Architecture*, which the author, M. de Chambray, gives as a design of that excellent Italian artist Pirro Ligorio, from an ancient fragment found at Albano near Rome.

The projection of the cornice is very large, more than equal to its height; and Lord Burlington, who saw it soon after its completion, pronounced it to be the best executed piece of work he had seen performed in his time.

A few yards to the north of the obelisk, is a peculiarly grand view of the house, and of the lake, which from this situation appears to be only separated from the sea by the beautiful wood which intervenes. It resembles indeed an arm of the sea, flowing up amidst a sylvan scene; not unlike that witnessed by Æneas on the river Tyber, as he proceeded to the hospitable mansion of Evander. The fine panoramic land and sea view from the church tower exceeds description.

Entrances. The grand and principal approach to the house is by the triumphal arch, on the Fakenham road, from which a fine broad vista leads to the obelisk, which is distant from the arch a mile and a half. Rising with the hill you approach the obelisk, which is situated in the midst of a fine plantation; passing through the obelisk wood, the road branches off to the left, leaving a fine expanse of lawn on the south front of the house, which is here seen to the greatest advantage.

The West Lodge; a very neat building by Mr. Wyatt. On the left of the road to the house is an interesting

view of the New Inn, where company coming to see the house may receive every accommodation.

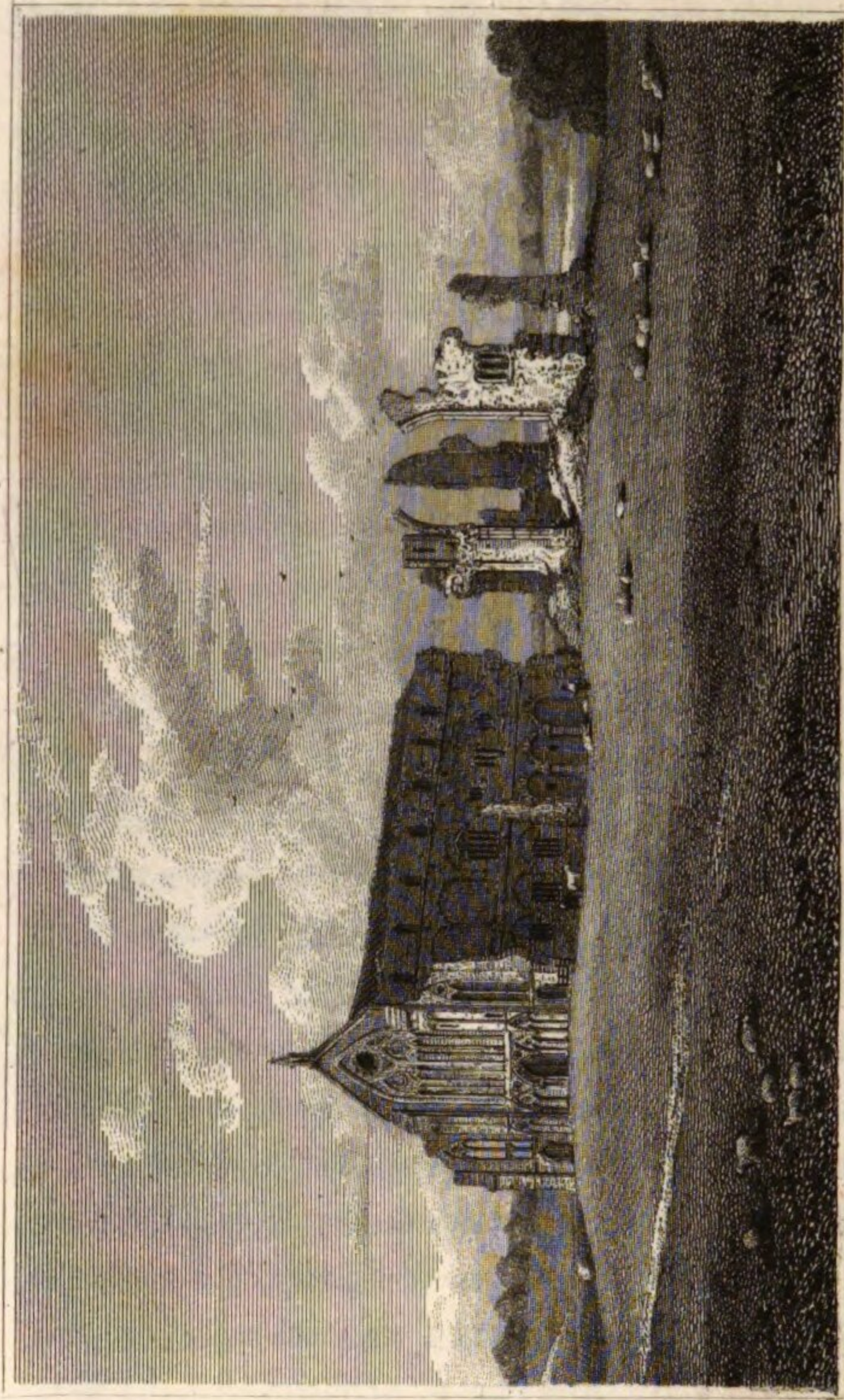
The East Lodge; a building of simple and elegant architecture, by Wyatt; from hence to the N.W. is an extensive view of the rich, well wooded, and highly cultivated grounds of the park.

Gardens. The kitchen garden, including the outer belt, contains eight acres. The principal part is divided into three squares of one acre each, the lesser part contains two compartments of one acre each. The extent of walling comprises upwards of 1400 yards in length, and 14 feet in height, well covered with fruit trees. In the middle square are two mulberry trees, which, as they are so generally admired, may be here mentioned. The extent of one is 30 yards, and the other 27, in a fine and healthy state. The vinery, which perhaps is the finest in England, is deserving the inspection of strangers. The hot-houses and forcing frames are also deserving notice.

The Pleasure Grounds, to the east of the mansion, are tastefully laid out. A fine gravel walk winding through clumps of trees, and shrubs of various kinds, interspersed with many a lovely flower, beguiles the footsteps of the wandering stranger while passing through this wilderness of sweets.

Mr. Coke's establishment upon the whole is princely. He has sat in several parliaments with little intermission; his annual sheep-shearing at Holkham is respectably attended, when the doors of hospitality and science are thrown open, not to those of rank and fortune only, but to all who are competent to receive or communicate improvements in agriculture.

In a word, to visit Holkham with advantage, the *STRANGER'S GUIDE TO HOLKHAM*, containing a description of the paintings, statues, &c. of Holkham-house, also an account of the park, gardens, &c. &c., compiled by J. Dawson, and printed at Burnham 1817,



Engraved by J. Greig from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman for the Excavations through Norfolk.

Remains of
BINGHAM PRIORY,
NORFOLK.

Pub. by Messrs. Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

ought to be viewed as an indispensable accompaniment. The various statues, bustoes, paintings, &c. &c., are not only enumerated in this little work as they are arranged in the different apartments, but the subjects are ably illustrated by historical and classical remarks; and the whole divested of the errors of former accounts, occasioned by the recent changes and improvements in this noble seat.

Holkham House is open for general inspection on Tuesdays only, except to *foreigners* and *artists*. Strangers or travellers who wish to view the house on other days can only do so by particular application to Mr. Coke, who has never refused his permission.

Before concluding our present excursion we must notice a few places to the right of New Walsingham; the first of these is

BINHAM. In the year 1738, Mr. Samuel Buck published a print of the ruins of Binham priory, and its collegiate church, great part of the west end of which was then standing. Excepting the west front, the whole is supposed to belong to the early style of Norman architecture. The original structure was raised in the reign of Henry I. The nave and north aisle have been used many years as the parish church, and at the west end is a handsome font. There are three tiers of seven arches on each side of the nave; the uppermost partly pointed and partly semicircular, the lowermost semicircular. The exterior of the western front is wholly in the pointed style, containing, in the lower part, a grand central and two side door-ways, with blank arcades between them; and over the former is a large centre window, which has been highly ornamented with mullions and tracery.

WAREHAM is about two miles from Binham, at a small distance from Stiffkey, and here is the seat of Sir Martin Browne Folkes, bart. This has been deemed one of the most beautiful situations in

Norfolk. The house stands on the brow of a gently rising hill, being protected from the north, east, and west, with very fine plantations, of many years growth, in the form of a crescent. The south opens on a delightful winding vale, affording a view of several villages and churches, and a large piece of water, which is lost in a grove. Nothing can be more picturesque than these and the view that breaks upon the traveller passing through the dark fir-wood, on his approach from London; hence the shady plantations about the house form a fine contrast with the brilliancy of the landscape in general. Turning to the right, an inclosure breaks into the plantations; this is fringed with open wood, that half obscures the village of Wareham, scattered thickly with trees; and Wareham steeples, one peeping over the thick plantations near the house, and the other, more open, complete the view—excepting that, full to the left, is the large Danish camp of Sweno, including about nine acres, with ramparts thirty feet high, the whole being nearly of a circular form. In the town of Wareham was a chapel, with its cemetery or yard, which, previous to the Dissolution, belonged to the nunnery of Bradholme.

STIFFKEY is about two miles to the right of Wareham. Here is *Stiffkey Hall*, which having been several years in a ruinous state is occupied by a farmer. The house still presents some circular towers, &c. and was built by Sir Nicholas Bacon, knt., Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The arms are on the gateway, and the date is 1604. The west front with two embrasured towers present more uniformity than most houses built at that period. Situated in the bottom of a sequestered vale, environed with lofty trees, and a stream slowly meandering by the side casts an additional gloom over the dilapidated mansion. The hills around rise in a bold manner,

but though bare of wood, this is compensated by the thick inclosures in which the village of Stiffkey is scattered, forming with its church in the dip of the hill, and that of Blakeney above it, in a prouder situation, a most complete and pleasing picture.

In proceeding directly along the road from New Walsingham to Wells, we pass the inconsiderable village of Wighton, and then arrive at WELLS.

WELLS, called in the Domesday Survey Guella, seated near the German Ocean, is a small sea-port town. It possesses a good harbour with a deep channel, but it is difficult of access owing to the shifting-sands: from not having sufficient back-water to carry the silt out to sea, it has long been accumulating to the great injury of the port. Previous to the late war, Wells carried on a considerable trade to Holland in corn, malt, &c. Subsequent to this the town has been much benefited by an oyster-fishery. The market is held on Saturdays, and the population is stated, by Mr. Beatniffe, at 2319.

EXCURSION V.

From Norwich through Drayton, Attlebridge, Moreton, Lenwade-bridge, Sparham, Billingford, North Elmham, Brisley, Stanfield, Mileham, Litcham, Gayton, Gaywood, to Lynn Regis.

ON commencing this excursion, about a mile and a half from Norwich, we arrive at HELLESDEN or HAYLESDON, and here is situated Hellesden New Hall, on the left of our road.

This manor being granted by the Conqueror to God-

win Halden, of Danish extraction, it is remarked of him "that he held under Earl Guert, brother of King Harold, the lordship of Nettington, in Smethdon hundred, in the Confessor's time and at the Conquest, when he was also rewarded with this lordship, those of Oxnead and Bernham, in South Erpingham and Fourhow hundreds, a proof that he was a rebel against King Harold, and assisted the Conqueror."

The church is a small pile, consisting of a body or nave, and has an octangular tower, and one bell. At the east end of the north aisle was the chantry of John de Haylesdon and his wife, both buried under a marble grave-stone with a brass plate in the year 1383. Over the porch of the south door is an arch of stone, and in the churchyard stands an old cross. It is intended to take down the present bridge here, and to erect a new one on the site, either of timber or iron. The arch to be $38\frac{1}{2}$ span, and the width of the bridge, clear of the railway, $13\frac{1}{2}$ feet.

We now pass through Drayton and Taverham, already described, and perceive

RINGLAND, lying a little to our left. The church here has three aisles, and a chancel, with a square tower, and five bells. In the east window of the north aisle, several persons are represented kneeling before a crucifix, and with labels *S'ca Trinitas, unus Deus, miserere nobis. Underneath, Orate pro fratrib. et sororib. gilde S'ce Trinitatis, qui fieri fecerunt istam fenestram.* In this church was also the guild of St. Mary; and mention was made in 1467 of a cloth to cover the image of the holy spirit in this church. In a house in this town, called *Blackborn's*, was the coat armour of John Salisbury, D. D. He was Dean of Norwich, Bishop of the Isle of Man, and the last prior of Hors-ham, and was married.

About a mile northward of Ringland, and on the same side of the road, is Morton.

MORTON, now called Morton on the Hill, was anciently a hamlet belonging to Helmingham. The church is dedicated to St. Margaret. In an arch against the north wall, is an antique monument, but with no inscription, only a cross cut in wood.

At a short distance on our left we observe

WESTON. The family of Rookwood held large possessions here at an early period: they descended from John Rokewode, who was escheator of Norfolk and Suffolk in the 49th of Edward III. and was living at Euston in Suffolk in the 10th of Richard II. Firmine Rookwood is said to have built Weston Hall. The church has a nave with two aisles, a chancel, and a tower with five bells.

Weston House lies near the road, and is the seat of J. Custance, Esq.

ELSING lies still farther to the left. The tower of the church here is square, and contains five bells. In the east window of the chancel are the portraitures of Sir Hugh de Hastings, and the Lady Margaret his wife. He built the church, and is represented on his knees, in armour, with his tabard of arms over it. The image of his lady has on her gown, also her arms, &c.; she is likewise upon her knees, each supporting with both their hands a church, and thus signifying themselves as the founders of this. In the midst of the chancel lies a large marble stone, round which there has been a rim of brass, now spoiled, and upon this marble, the portrait of a knight in complete armour, with a lion at his feet, and the arms of Hastings over his head: his helmet is supported by two angels.

LING lies between us and the road to which we are now returning. Here was anciently a religious house or nunnery, which is said to have been removed to Thetford, about 1176, at the request of John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich; and in the fifteenth of Edward I. a jury found the claims of the prioress of St.

George, in Thetford, for a fair at Ling, yearly, on the feast of St. Edmund.

Having joined the road at Lenwade bridge, we observe on our right the village of

HEVERINGLAND. Here was the priory of Mountjoy, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, St. Michael, and St. Laurence, which stood about a mile south-west of the parish church, the north aisle of which was built by Sir Roger Bilney, who was buried under a marble grave-stone, with his effigies in brass, and about the rim of it was this inscription, in old French.

Sir Roger de Bylney gyst ici

Dieu de S' Alme eit merci.

Et prie quelqe le voyont

Ke in memorie le avont.

WITCHINGHAM GREAT and LITTLE are also on our right, and are passed through in our way to Reepham. The church of Great Witchingham, dedicated to St. Mary, was anciently a rectory, granted to the priory of Longueville in Normandy, by Walter Gifford, Earl of Bucks. Among other inscriptions to the memory of the ancient family of Le Neve, is the following character, most remarkable at present for its uncommon rarity!

“ Here lyeth Oliver Le Neve, esq. a faithful subject of the king, an obedient son of the church, a stout patron of justice, and a true lover of his country, no friend to popery or presbytery; but a zealous assertor of the Church of England, as the nearest to primitive Christianity, and the very sanctuary of the English interest, liberty, and property: he was for his intellectuals, of a most sound, solid, deep, and piercing judgment; for his morals, of a most prudent, sober, grave, just, generous, and every way obliging, virtuous conversation, wherein he eminently excelled, and was

therein constant to his death, which was Jan. 21, 1678, and in the 78th year of his age.

May his posterity immortalize his name by the imitation of his virtues!

Vir bonus est hic, qui ut leges patriæ, sic sacram religionem firmiter excoluit."

Of an opposite kind to the former, but in the quaint phrase of those times, is the following punning inscription in memory of Thomas Alleyn of Wichingham Magna, gent. who died Feb. 3, 1650, and his two wives.

Death here advantage hath of life I spye,
One husband with two wives at once may lye.

At the east end of the south aisle was a chapel belonging to Strete Hall. In the windows of the church are the arms of the Earls of Clare, Mortimer, &c.

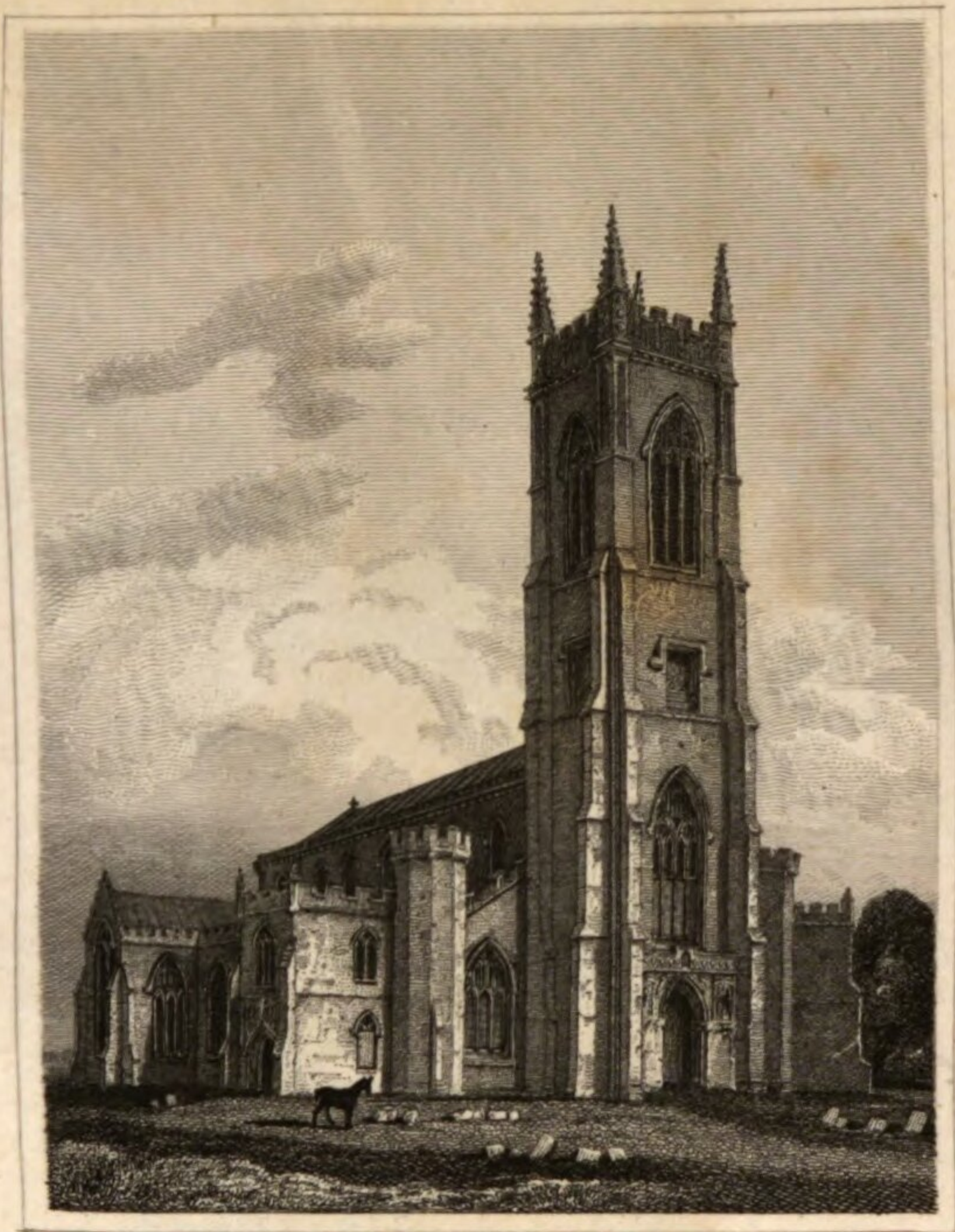
REEPHAM or Repham is at present a very small town, having a weekly market on Saturdays, which was obtained by a charter granted to Sir John de Vaux, in the fifth year of King Edward I. At one time, the parish had three churches standing within one sepulchral enclosure; two of these still remain. In the chancel of one of these are monuments with effigies, &c. to the memory of the ancient family of the Kerdestons. Here was also a "famous image of the Virgin Mary," which, like the shrine of Diana at Ephesus, brought no small gains to those who managed the concern, on account of the numerous pilgrimages made to it. The church of Repham serves also for the village of Kerdeston, where there was formerly a chapel, standing close on a hill, called the Chapel Close; no part of this is now left, being carried away at different times to build or repair the neighbouring houses. Some low hollow ground is said to have been a moat; but it is most probable that this was the manor-house and chapel belonging to the Kerdestons.

Within a mile on the left is Booton Hall, the seat of ——— Howlett, esq. and just beyond, Whitwell Hall, that of T. Coke, esq.

SALL or SALLE lies about two miles to the right of Reepham. The church of this village is a stately pile, built chiefly of freestone, in the manner of a cathedral, and consists of a chancel, a nave, two aisles, a transept, and a square tower at the west end. It was erected at the expense of some lord, in the reign of Henry VI. probably by Delapole, Duke of Suffolk, whose arms, quartered with those of Wingfield, are in the east window of the chapel. In the pavement, on a flat stone, is this inscription. *Orate p a i a Simonis Boleyn, Capellini, q obt 3 die mensis, Aug. 1482. Hic jacet Galfrid Boleyn, qui obt 23 die mensis Marti, 1440, et Alice uxor ejus, et puer suorum, quorum ai ab, &c.* Here is Sall House, the seat of R. P. Jodrell, esq.

WOOD DALLING lies directly north of Reepham, and nearly three miles distant. This was long the seat of the family of the de Dallings, one of whose descendants built *Dalling Hall*, about the year 1582, and gave it with part of his demesne lands to Robert, his second son; but the manor and lordship of Wood Dalling, alias Dalling Hall, alias Monceaux, Halwood Noiions, with the house and estate at Churchgate, went to William, his eldest son, who in 1632, with his son Richard, conveyed it with his estates in Thurning and Kerdeston to Sir John Hobart, knt. and baronet.

GEYSTWICK is about three miles to the eastward of Wood Dalling. The church here is a rectory, and was granted to the Abbey of Waltham, by Eborard de Geiste: it consists of a nave with a north and south aisle; the north door has no porch, but a holy water pot, still entire, is in the wall on the west side. The steeple, standing at the east end of the north aisle, joining to the chancel, is accounted for by Blomenfield, as having belonged to the old church, "built in a



Engraved by J. Gray, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursions through Norfolk.

**SALLE CHURCH,
NORFOLK.**

Pub. 21 Sep. 1818, by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.



Engraved by J. Barber, from a Drawing by J. S. Cotman, for the Excursion through Norfolk.

SALLE HOUSE.
The Seat of Sir Richard Iodderill Bart.
NORFOLK.

Pub'd Sep. 2. 1818. by Longman & Co. Paternoster Row.

cathedral, or conventual manner, and so was in the midst between the nave and the choir, with arches to pass through." In the window of the south aisle, a physician is represented administering physic to a person sick in bed, and this label, *In sickness I pyne, trost in God and here is medicine.* Also a person naked, and for cold I quake—and a woman bringing things, *have here clothes warm to make.* The seven works of mercy were likewise depicted here; but probably destroyed by the puritans. In the window of the north aisle is a representation of the martyrdom of St. Edmund the King, by the Danes shooting him, and their own king or leader falling down dead before him; also that of the circumcision; with a boat by the sea-shore, a man lying dead near it; a king and several persons viewing the body, with a woman in a red habit, &c.

Upon two sisters in law, who died at this place in 1702, is the following inscription,

Under this stone in easy slumber lies
Two dusty bodies that at last shall rise.

WOOD NORTON or Wood Horton is about a mile and a half north-east of Geystwick. Part of this town belonged to the bishops of the East Angles, and to the see when it was at North Elmham. There were two churches standing at Wood Norton in the fifth year of Henry V. All Saints, the present church, has no steeple, but a frame for bells in the churchyard. It appears from Domesday book, that even religious houses of the greatest distinction were not free from the depredations and plunder of the Norman invaders. Rainald, the son of Ivo, deprived the Abbey of St. Edmund of Bury of their lordship of Norton Hall. Here is the seat of W. T. Harwood, esq.

Returning towards the road we pass

FOULSHAM. This small town, nearly destroyed by fire in the year 1770, has since been rebuilt in a more

convenient and respectable manner. In the churchyard is an ancient altar tomb, bearing an inscription, which has been much noticed for the singular disposition of the Saxon letters inscribed upon it, each of which is surmounted by a coronet, "ROB ART COLLES CECI LY HIS VYF." The words thus fancifully divided, record the memory of Robert Colles and Cecely his wife, of whom nothing more is known, than that the former was witness to a deed of Ralph Bateman, who lived as late as the twentieth year of the reign of Henry VII.

We now rejoin the road at

SPARHAM. The church here is a regular pile, consisting of a nave, north and south aisles, covered with lead; an embattled square tower, with five bells at the west end of the nave. The windows of the south aisle have been finely illuminated with effigies, &c. Here are also the shattered arms of Lord Grey. Joan Bust, a widow, gave by her will, in 1481, all her lands and tenements to the building of a new aisle, on the south side of the church at this place. Bawdeswell Hall lies to the right, and is the seat of Richard Lloyd, esq.

BILLINGFORD lies just on the right of our road. This small village is noted as having once belonged to Sir Simon Burley, knight banneret, the great favourite of Edward the Black Prince; but being attainted of high crimes and misdemeanors, was found guilty, and beheaded on Tower Hill, in the year 1338. The large square tower belonging to the church has long since fallen down. In the chancel windows are the arms of De la Pole, Hastyngs, Valence, and those of Anthony and Henry Grys, with a crescent. The font in the church is decorated with the arms of St. Edmund, St. George, &c. all carved in stone. Here is Beck Hall, the seat of T. W. Coke, esq.

On the opposite side of the road is Swanton.

WORTHING. The history of this little hamlet, in

the parish and lordship of Swanton, exhibits a curious feature of feudality and semi-barbarism, stating, that Henry de Rie, by will, sans date, gave to the monks of Castleacre, the mill of Worthing, with Thurstane the miller, his mother and brothers, with all their substance. The steeple of this church, which was round, is in ruins.

SWANTON MORLEY; this, and Hoe, lie nearly on a line with Morley. The church of the former stands on a hill in the middle of the town, and was building in the year 1379, as appears from the will of William Lord Morley, dated August 26 in the same year, in which he gives to this church ten marks and his gilt cup. It consists of a nave or body, with two aisles, and a chancel covered with lead. The lofty square tower contains four bells. Swanton manor-house was near the church, and was encompassed with a moat; but the most ancient site is said to have been by the river opposite Below, since called Newcastle.

HOE or HOW, is a hamlet in the parish of East Derham, and belonged to the Abbey of Ely, founded by St. Audrey or Etheldreda, and was held by Ralph, son of Ivo, of the abbot, and afterwards of the king, as it appears from the Domesday book. Here is a chapel, with a nave or body; a north and south aisle, and a chancel covered with lead, with a square tower and three bells. In the north aisle, at the east end, was a chapel, and in the north window the figures of a person lying dead, and five priests as praying by him. In the east window there is a representation of the crucifixion, and here was probably a clerk's chantry.

Returning to our road, we observe on our right

ELMHAM. This was formerly called North Elmham, in contradistinction to South Elmham, in Suffolk: it is seated on the north-west side of the Wensum; and, in the time of the Romans, is supposed to have been the seat of a *flamen*. Bisus, the fourth bishop

of the East Angles, about 673 divided this diocese in two, on account of its being too large, when one bishop was appointed to reside here, and the other at Dunwich. In the 11th of Richard II. Bishop Spencer had a license to embattle and make a castle of his manor-house. The site of this was on a considerable mount, surrounded with an inclosed intrenchment, containing about five acres. The inner keep was also inclosed by a deep ditch, containing about two acres, and a good well. In this state the bishop's residence continued till the exchange of lands took place between Henry VIII. and Bishop Nix. The extensive park which belonged to it is well stocked with deer.

Elmham Hall, the seat of R. Milles, esq. stands in a fine park, which is ornamented with wood and water; and seated on an eminence, commands a variety of pleasing views. Here is also the seat of Edmund Wodehouse, esq. one of the members for the county.

In a piece of ground called Broomclose, about half a mile from the village of North Elmham, a variety of urns without covers have been dug up. These were of divers sizes, colours, &c. and contained bones, ashes, pieces of glass, metal, &c. In one was a knife four inches and a half long, having a wrought handle. A dagger, one foot long, with a curiously wrought handle, hilt, and bar, was found in a ditch; and also a green conical glass, four inches in length, three inches diameter at the bottom, and one inch at the top. This was a *lacrymatory*, which had probably been deposited in an urn. A great number of urns and coins were also discovered in a field, about a furlong south of the village; circumstances, which have induced many to give credit to the opinion, that this place was a Roman town, &c. A church was certainly built here by Bishop Herbert; but the present building is by no means of that age; it is, however, a large regular pile, consisting of a middle, north, and south

aisle, supported by six pillars, and forming seven arches on each side, with a chancel, covered with lead. At the west end stands a square tower, containing five bells and a clock, the whole surmounted with a shaft or small spire, 119 feet high. On the pannels of the chancel door have been painted the four doctors of the church, St. Augustine, St. Gregory, Ambrose, and Jerome. The bishops' ancient seat stood about 100 yards north of the present church.

At a short distance from North Elmham, are the villages of Bintry and Twyford; adjoining the latter is Guist Bridge, crossing which we observe Sennowe Lodge, the seat of Edmund Wodehouse, esq.; on our left, and proceeding a mile farther to the north-east, we arrive at

LITTLE RYBURGH. This was held by the ancient family of De Paveli; and to Ralph de Paveli, Richard, the prior of Bingham, in the reign of Henry III. granted for himself and his heirs, the liberty to build a chapel in his house, in this parish, saving all right belonging to their church; and that the chaplain should admit none of the parishioners to any sacrament, and shall swear to be true to mother church; and if any chaplain should withhold any profit, then the prior to suspend him till restoration be made.

FULMODESTON lies about two miles to the northward. William de Grancourt was lord here in the 45th of Henry III. and in the 52d of that king was witness to several writs, dated November 21, directed to the sheriff of Norfolk and several other sheriffs, reciting, that whereas the king had great occasion for money, by reason of his foreign and domestic affairs, that as he would avoid corporal punishment, loss of his goods, and the king's anger, he should speedily pay 400 marks of the money due on the summons of the last *iter* of the justices in that county, otherwise he should know that the king would chastise his neglect in such a man-

ner that his punishment should teach others how to perform the king's commands. The church here is without monuments.

GREAT RYBURGH lies in our way towards the high road, being so called from its site by the river. This was anciently in the family of the Munpinzums, Walkfares, De la Grenes, &c. till the dissolution, when Henry VIII. granted it to Sir William Butts, and Margaret his wife, daughter and heiress of ——— Bacon, of Cambridgeshire, for life. He was doctor of physic, educated at Cambridge, chief physician to the king, one of the founders of the College of Physicians at London, in whose records he stands highly characterized for his eminent learning, singular judgment, and great experience, and is much extolled by many authors who lived in his time. He was knighted by the name of William Butts of Norfolk, and dying on the 17th of November, 1545, was buried in the church of Fulham, near London. He left three sons. The church of Ryburgh contains an altar tomb, with several arms, but no inscription.

GATELEY is situated a mile and a half to the southward of Ryburgh. This in Edward the Confessor's time was the lordship of Bund, a thane or freeman. In the reign of Henry III. Sir Ralph de Gatele, knt. confirmed by deed, sans date, to the church of the Holy Trinity at Norwich, all the land which Thomas, son of Herlewin, held of him, paying to him and his heirs 5s. 1d. and for common pasture in the whole village of Gateley one pound of pepper yearly on the nativity of our Lord. When Robert Baynard died seized of this estate in the fourth of Edward III. it was found that he had held it of Isabel, Queen Dowager of England, by the service of two knights fees, and paying 20s. per annum, castle guard to Dover. At this time there was a capital messuage at Gateley, of no value above the reparations; six score acres of arable land at three-

pence per acre ; six acres of meadow, valued at 6s. per annum ; three acres of coppice wood at six years growth of 40*d.* per acre ; a windmill very ruinous at 5s. per annum, rent of assize payable at Christmas, Easter, and St. Michael, 40s. : the winter works of the customary tenants valued at 20*d.* the price of every work an halfpenny : 15 summer works at 8s. 4*d.* ; thirty days work digging of turf or flags (*opera turbaria*) 15*d.* : 50 hens at Christmas 4s. 2*d.* &c.

Having rejoined the road we observe on our left the village of

EAST BILNEY. The family of the Crowes were lords here for several generations. In this town was born Thomas Bilney, a learned divine of Cambridge, who was burnt at Norwich in 1531, during the reign of Henry VIII. for preaching against the doctrines of the popish church. The register of Butley priory in Suffolk, after taking notice of him as a heretic, adds, "about this time, especially, there was a vehement schism between the clergy and the laity, concerning the holy church and its rites, against the priesthood, the holy father, indulgencies, excommunications, &c."

About three miles to the southward lies the village of

GRESSENHALE. The church here is a large pile built in the cathedral manner with a north and south transept, and a tower in the centre rising from the entrance into the chancel. This tower had been repaired in 1491 by John Ferour and Joan his wife, but having fallen much to decay, licence was granted in 1698 to take down the spire on the top of it. The north transept is called Ferours Chantry or Chapel, and that on the south Hastings Chapel. The communion-table, which is railed in, has a covering of red-silk with a deep silver lace, and a rich piece of gold brocade with a large cross of silk worked upon it, this being the gift of the wife of one of the rectors, Mr. Hugh Hare.

The chapel of St. Nicholas was founded in a place

called Rougholm in Gressenhale, by William de Stutevil, lord of the town in the reign of Henry III. It was a long narrow building with a north and south transept, and a chancel, all in ruins in Blomefield's time; what was standing had been converted into a house.

A little way south of where the brethren lived there stood a house, the site of which was then an osier-ground. The common seal of this house or college, was the effigies of St. Nicholas in his pontificals. John Strange, the last incumbent, had a pension of 4*l.* 16*s.* per annum paid him by the crown, and was living in 1503.

Having rejoined the road at *Stanfield*, on our right we observe Godwick. In this town is the old seat of Sir Edward Coke; but of the ancient church there is nothing remaining but the steeple.

Godwick Hall is now the seat of T. W. Coke, esq.

We now proceed to Mileham.

MILEHAM, a considerable village lying on the road from Norwich to Lynn, is the birthplace of that great luminary of the law, Sir Edward Coke. He was the son of Robert Coke, esq., lord of this manor, and born in the old hall which is now dilapidated. He died Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, Sept. 3rd, 1634, in the eighty-third year of his age. A sumptuous altar monument bearing a Latin inscription in the chancel of the church at Tittleshall, in this county, records his acquirements, honours, and virtues.

A strong castle is said to have formerly stood in the town of Mileham, the site of which was afterwards part of the demesnes. The castle stood by the roadside on the left-hand beyond the church, and being of an oval form contained about twelve or thirteen acres, surrounded by two deep ditches or trenches. On the southern side was the keep, with another ditch where there are the ruins of the wall that crossed it; and on the

north part was the barbican. The outward ditch and enclosure seems to have crossed the high road, and to have enclosed the house and ground wherein Sir Edward Coke was born; the entrance appears to have been on the west side. This castle is supposed to have been built by Alan son of Flaald, to whom the Conqueror gave this great manor, and who was the ancestor of the Fitz-Alans Earls of Arundel.

From Mileham at a distance of about two miles we arrive at LITCHAM. The church is a neat regular pile with a nave covered with reed; a north and south aisle, and a chancel leaded. At the west-end of the nave is a square tower of brick with quoins of free-stone, and embattled, with a clock and dial, built by Matthew Halcot a tanner, who new cast the bells, and gave the clock. On a common in this parish was formerly a hermitage occupied by Thomas Cannon.

About a mile to our left is *Lexham Hall*, the seat of — Kepple, esq. Kempston and Beeston lie on a line to the southward; the former is no way remarkable.

BEESTON. The church here is a regular pile consisting of a nave and two aisles covered with lead, with a tower containing four bells, terminated by a spire; here are also two chapels, one on the north side called our Lady's, and one on the south, called St. John's. Over the door in the north aisle are these old rhymes in old letters:

This share doth shew this manor-fine,
A share it is, not money mine,
This many hundred years you understand
A share to be a fine for taking up of land.

Under this is the figure of a ploughshare, and the words about it,

Beeston Fine. Lord Barnwell, see thou keep it.

The custom of the manor is for all copyholders to pay on every death, or alienation, a ploughshare or two shillings. On the screen also is a B, a ploughshare and a ton, an old rebus for Beeston.

Great and Little Dunham lie on the same side.

GREAT DUNHAM. From ancient writings it appears there were two churches here, St. Mary and St. Andrew's; these were probably standing in 1518, though in the institution books of Norwich, mention is made of St. Mary only. Here is *Dunham Hall*; in the parlour there were painted on the glass, the arms of the Wingfields impaling Bovil, &c. &c. The church is built in a conventual form, with a tower between the nave and chancel; the former is leaded.

LITTLE DUNHAM is not sufficiently interesting to detain us.

Having returned to Litcham, we observe a road leading to Fakenham; this we shall pursue, and the first place we arrive at is

TITLESHALE. The church here is embellished with several monuments, but by none more than that to the memory of Sir Edward Coke. It stands at the east end of the north wall, and is of the altar form; on which lie the effigies of the deceased in white marble as a judge in his robes, under an arch supported by two black marble pillars. On the summit is the shield with the family arms, the figures of the four cardinal virtues, and the motto, *Prudens qui patiens*. To the Latin inscription, the following is added,

“Dedicated to the memory of Sir Edward Coke, knight, a late reverend judge, born at Mileham in the county of Norfolk; excellent in all learning divine and humane, that for his own, this for his country's good, especially in the knowledge and practice of the municipal laws of this kingdom. A famous pleader, a sound counsellor; in his younger years recorder of the cities of Norwich and London, next solicitor-general

to Queen Elizabeth, and speaker of the parliament in the 35th of her reign; afterwards attorney-general to the same queen, as also to her successor King James; to both a faithful servant for their majesties safeties. By King James constituted chief justice of both benches successively, in both a just, in both an exemplary judge. One of his majesties most honourable privy council, as also of council to Queen Anne, and chief justice in Eyre of her forests, chases, and parks. Recorder of the city of Coventry, and high steward of the city of the University of Cambridge, whereof he was sometime a member of Trinity College: he had two wives; by Bridget his first wife (one of the daughters and coheirs of John Paston, esq.), he had issue six sons and three daughters, and by the Lady Elizabeth his second wife (one of the daughters of the Right Honourable Thomas Earl of Exeter), he had issue two daughters; a chaste husband and a provident father.

He crowned his pious life, with a pious and christian departure at Stoke Pogis in the county of Bucks. His last words were "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done."

Leaving Wellingham on our left we next arrived at WISSINGSET, or WHISSONET. Sir Henry Spelman, in his *Icenia*, says that Hubert Bozun a Norman, who came into England with the Conqueror, and was his chief *fletcher*, had a grant from him of this lordship, but Blomefield thinks this is a mistake. The church is a single pile, with a chancel covered with lead, and has a square tower containing four bells. On the pavement of the chancel are several gravestones of grey marble with the effigies of the Bozouns in armour on brass plates; and on one

Ricardus Bozoun quonda' fueram vocitatus,
Quod fueram non sum quia pulvere su' subhumatus,
M C tetras ac L in festi vespe stelle
Spiritus experat, Deus O mea crimina pelle.

Thomas Trumpe of this place, by his will dated April 8, 1528, among other bequests left one pennyworth of herring every Pulver Wednesday (Ash-Wednesday) in Lent to every householder in the town.

OXWICK, COLKIRK, TESTERTON, and PUDDING NORTON, all lie on our right; the three former do not require particular notice.

PUDDING NORTON. In the 5th of Henry V. it appears there were two manors called Newhall and Peckhall, and that the site of Newhall was by the church. A patent was granted in the 4th of Edward VI. to the Bishop of Norwich of Peterston and Norton with land called Dovehouse-close in Norton: Blomefield says, it is now a depopulated village, only a hall or manor house with a farm-house remaining. Of the church of Pudding Norton nothing remains but part of a small four-square tower.

FAKENHAM is a small town with a good corn-market, which is mostly attended by buyers from Wells and other contiguous ports. The church is a large commodious structure, consisting of a nave with two aisles, chancel, south porch and lofty stone tower; the latter has a fine entrance door-way with a large window over it. This is divided into six lights, and subdivided by a horizontal mullion, and tracery mouldings. On each side of the door is a canopied niche, and the buttresses are ornamented with pannelling. The church also contains an ornamented octangular font. The general market here is on Thursdays; the number of houses 255, and that of the inhabitants 1382. The annual fairs are on Ash-Wednesday, and Nov. 11.

We now turn to the north-east, and about two miles distant observe *Sculthorp*.

END OF VOL. I.

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